

# Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories

INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF THE PROTECTED AREA  
MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES IN EUROPE

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, and  
EUROPARC Federation  
with the assistance of the  
World Conservation Monitoring Centre



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**IUCN**  
The World Conservation Union



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# FOREWORD

The guidelines of the IUCN protected area management categories were published in 1994. Since then, they have been widely applied and referenced at the national and international levels in legislation, policy initiatives and in other ways. In particular they were used in the latest (1997) United Nations List of Protected Areas.

This supplementary advice is part of an on-going process by WCPA to ensure that the IUCN guidelines are even more widely understood and used. It is specifically designed to take this process further forward within Europe. Thus it is intended to help protected area managers and others concerned with protected areas in Europe to apply the IUCN system more consistently, in particular in the returns they make to the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) as an input to the next edition of the UN list.

Reliable categorisation and data can only be obtained if the definitions and guidelines are carefully studied by the responsible national agencies, and then compared with the actual situation in each individual protected area. Neither WCMC nor the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) has the resources to check the data provided by all individual countries in sufficient detail to be able to make the necessary corrections. Hence the importance of the advice here. Countries may also find it helpful to convene an expert forum to help decide on their UN list returns. Furthermore, experts from within the WCPA and the EUROPARC networks could be consulted for their guidance. WCPA and the EUROPARC Federation intend to encourage countries to organise such independent assessments when distributing information on the categories system.

Supplementary advice of this kind is needed because of difficulties which have been encountered in interpreting the categories system. Though these difficulties are not confined to Europe, they are sometimes particularly acute in this region. As a result the assignment of individual protected areas to specific categories is not always straightforward and may involve an element of arbitrary judgement. The principal difficulties are as follows:

1. The categories system comprises a "one-dimensional" gradation of primary management objectives from strict protection (Category I) to continuous habitat management (Category IV) and landscape protection (Category V). In reality management objectives within a single protected area are often more complicated than that. Therefore fitting all individual protected areas into a linear classification cannot be achieved without some unavoidable distortion, which involves overlooking some characteristics and exaggerating the importance of others.
2. Many of the larger protected areas in Europe have elements and respective management objectives within them that correspond to two or more management categories. The guidelines recommend that each individual protected area be assigned to a particular category, based on its primary objective. In such assignments, it is inevitable that compromises have to be made and that some finer details of information may be lost. It is therefore recommended that all supplementary materials, e.g. national and local databases, lists and tables, should identify these other objectives
3. Large marine areas have been difficult to fit into one single category as they typically comprise fluid and dynamic marine ecosystems, have a high diversity of habitats and species within an area, contain many highly migratory marine species (e.g. plankton to marine mammals) and sometimes cross national boundaries as well. As a result, there

is a need for multiple objectives and complex management schemes. Again, it is suggested that while assignment be based on primary objectives, these and secondary objectives should be incorporated in descriptive products. This will also encourage the adoption of novel approaches to multiple-purpose management.

4. Particular complications sometimes surround the use of Category II (where for example there is strong political pressure to ensure that such areas are so classified in the UN list). It is the case that there are some nationally designated national parks that do not fulfil the requirements of Category II. Where this is due to deficiencies of management, the aim should be to improve management effectiveness; where it arises because the objectives of management are in fact different, then another category (e.g. IV or V) may be more appropriate.
5. There are also particular problems with category V. It has been used in the past not only to classify a typical protected landscape as defined by the IUCN guidelines but also for various other areas which do not easily fit into other categories. This practice threatens to undermine the concept of Category V as originally put forward, and promotes a view that it is a less important category than, for example, Category II (whereas the IUCN systems stresses that all categories are important). Sites which do not correspond to the characteristics of any category should be assumed not to fall within the overall IUCN definition of a protected area and omitted from the UN list altogether.
6. Sometimes national legislation makes reference to the IUCN management categories but interprets these in different ways. This can cause confusion. Where the legislation explicitly refers to the system, then the definitions and guidelines should be strictly followed. Where this is not the case, it would be best not to use the IUCN numbering system (I-VI).
7. There is sometimes confusion about the relationship between the definition of conservation objectives for an area and its classification. In fact, in designating protected areas, the primary aim should be to establish a sufficient level of protection by adapting broad management objectives to local needs and conditions. The definitions of the categories should be used as reference points when deciding on the management objectives, but the final categorisation should come after determining the actual conservation status of the area. First comes the protection, then the categorisation.

To assist in interpreting the IUCN system in Europe, Parts I and II of this document follow closely the global guidance but highlight additional commentary to assist in the interpretation in the European context. Part III contains a set of case studies from within the region, which demonstrate how the system can be applied in practice.

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In light of different national and federal legislation, which has a strong influence on the implementation and application of protected area management categories, it was necessary to consider the Guidelines with a wide array of European protected area experts. During the pre-conference (Parks for Life) meeting on the Island of Rügen (D) and a EUROPARC Expertise Exchange workshop on "Policies for Better Protection of Natural Heritage" held in the Dzukija National Park (LT) the following experts also contributed with their own views and experience: Grigore Baboianu (RO), Janez Bizjak (SI), Andon Bojadži (MK), Roger Crofts (UK), Humberto da Cruz (E), Antonio Fernandez de Tejada (E), Gerald Dick (A), Eugenius Drobek (LT), Adaleta Durmić (BiH), Marian Gič (SK), Michael Green (UK), Istvan Gyarmathy (H), Arne Kaasik (EE), Konstantinos Kassiomis (GR), Horst Korn (D), Željko Kramarić (CRO), Olev Lillemets (EE), Mehmet Meta (AL), Attila Molnár (H), Irma Obersteiner (A), Czesław Okolow (PL), Adrian Phillips (UK), Dr Klaus Robin (CH), Patrizia Rossi (I), David Sheppard (AUS), Hermann Stotter (A), Janis Strautnieks (LV), Zdzisław Szikurc (PL), Katarina Škorvankova (SK), Dr Jan Štursa (CZ), István Zsolt Tóth (H), Dr Ivan Vološčuk (SK) and Dr Hubert Zierl (D).

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## Introduction \*

*The IUCN System for classifying protected areas distinguishes six Management Categories. It is explicitly understood that all Categories are valuable in their own right. The numbers I to VI do not express any ranking. The full range of Categories is necessary to cover the entire diversity of services provided by protected areas. The purpose of this paper is to further clarify how Guidelines on IUCN Protected Area Management Categories can be interpreted within Europe. It is a basic premise of this supplementary advice that the criteria and management objectives of the individual categories need to be maintained, in Europe as elsewhere, and must not be weakened.*

*The following characteristics of Europe play an important role in the designation of protected areas and their assignment to the respective Management Categories.*

- *Although Europe is only a small continent, it is divided into many different and varied landscapes and seascapes.*
- *Historically developed cultural landscapes are wide-spread and are highly valued. They are the result of a very long history of settlement and land use, during which people have laboured and worked the land, at times in harmony with the forces of nature.*
- *With the exception of parts of Northern and Eastern Europe, there are almost no extensive, completely unspoilt natural areas.*
- *Land ownership and rights to use land can be very complex and are often based on division into small areas.*
- *Europe is naturally differentiated into relatively small stretches of particular landscape types. However, continuous exploitation of the land has led to a large increase in the diversity of habitats, and to fine dovetailing of cultural and natural areas. This situation often leads to a higher level of biodiversity; it is widely understood that the distribution of many wild species is directly related to human-modified semi-natural habitats.*
- *Europe is divided into many small countries. Some countries are further politically subdivided under federal systems. The result is a variety of legal regulations for protected areas, about which it is difficult to generalise.*
- *Finally, much of Europe is characterised by high population densities, the presence of major infrastructure and the existence of high levels of consumption among inhabitants.*

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\* All comments and interpretations made in relation to the European situation, and in addition to the original text of the IUCN "Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories", are presented in *bold italics*.



# **PART I**

## **Protected Area Management Categories**

# Chapter 1. Background

Through its Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA, now WCPA), IUCN has given international guidance on the categorisation of protected areas for nearly a quarter of a century. The purposes of this advice have been:

- to alert governments to the importance of protected areas;
- to encourage governments to develop systems of protected areas with management aims tailored to national and local circumstances;
- to reduce the confusion which has arisen from the adoption of many different terms to describe different kinds of protected areas;
- to provide international standards to help global and regional accounting and comparisons between countries;
- to provide a framework for the collection, handling and dissemination of data about protected areas; and
- generally to improve communication and understanding between all those engaged in conservation.

As a first step, the General Assembly of IUCN defined the term "national park" in 1969. Much pioneer work was done by Dr. Ray Dasmann, from which emerged a preliminary categories system published by IUCN in 1973. In 1978, IUCN published the CNPPA report on Categories, Objectives and Criteria for Protected Areas, which was prepared by the CNPPA Committee on Criteria and Nomenclature chaired by Dr. Kenton Miller. This proposed these ten categories:

- I Scientific Reserve / Strict Nature Reserve
- II National Park
- III Natural Monument / Natural Landmark
- IV Nature Conservation Reserve / Managed Nature Reserve / Wildlife Sanctuary
- V Protected Landscape
- VI Resource Reserve
- VII Natural Biotic Area / Anthropological Reserve
- VIII Multiple Use Management Area / Managed Resource Area
- IX Biosphere Reserve
- X World Heritage Site (natural).

This system of categories has been widely used. It has been incorporated in some national legislation, used in dialogue between the world's protected area managers, and has formed the organisational structure of the UN List of National Parks and Protected Areas (which in recent editions has covered Categories I – V).

Nonetheless, experience has shown that the 1978 categories system is in need of review and updating. The differences between certain categories are not always clear, and the treatment of marine conservation needs strengthening. Categories IX and X are not discrete management categories but international designations generally overlain on other categories. Some of the criteria have been found to be in need of a rather more flexible interpretation to meet the varying conditions around the world.

Finally, the language used to describe some of the concepts underlying the categorisation needs updating, reflecting new understandings of the natural environment, and of human interactions with it, which have emerged over recent years.

In 1984, therefore, CNPPA set up a task force to review the categories system and revise it as necessary. This had to take account of several General Assembly decisions dealing with the interests of indigenous peoples, wilderness areas and protected landscapes and seascapes. The report of the task force, which was led by the then Chair of the CNPPA, Mr. Harold Eidsvik, was presented to a CNPPA meeting at the time of the IUCN General Assembly in Perth, Australia, in November 1990. It proposed that the first five categories of the 1978 system should form the basis of an up-dated system; it also proposed the abandonment of categories VI – X.

The report was generally well received. It was referred to a wider review at the Fourth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, at Caracas, Venezuela, February 1992. The Congress workshop to which the topic was assigned also had before it an analysis by IUCN consultant, Mr. John Foster. Members of the workshop reviewed this material and recommended the early production of guidelines to replace those adopted in 1978. This was formally affirmed in Recommendation 17 of the Congress. Revised guidelines were then prepared and reviewed by the CNPPA Steering Committee and the IUCN Council in accordance with Recommendation 17. The result is these present guidelines, which incorporate general advice on protected area management categories (Part I), consider each of the categories in turn (Part II), and include a number of examples from around the world showing the application of the different categories (Part III).

These present guidelines, therefore, represent the culmination of an extensive process involving a wide-ranging review within the protected area constituency over a number of years. The opinion of those involved have been many. Some have recommended radical changes from the 1978 guidance; others no change whatsoever. Some have urged that there be regional versions of the guidelines; others that the categories be rigidly adhered to every-where.

The conclusion is guidelines which:

- adhere to the principles set forth in 1978 and reaffirmed in the task force report in 1990;
- update the 1978 guidelines to reflect the experience gained over the years in operating the categories system;
- retain the first five categories, while simplifying the terminology and layout;
- add a new category;
- recognise that the system must be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the complexities of the real world;
- illustrate each of the six categories with a number of brief case studies to show how the categories are being applied around the world; and
- provide a tool for management, not a restrictive prescription.

## Chapter 2. Basic Concepts

The starting point must be a definition of a protected area. The definition adopted is derived from that of the workshop on Categories held at the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas:

An area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means.

This definition embraces the "universe" of protected areas. All categories must fall within this definition. But although all protected areas meet the general purposes contained in this definition, in practice the precise purposes for which protected areas are managed differ greatly. The following are the main purposes of management:

- Scientific research
- Wilderness protection
- Preservation of species and genetic diversity
- Maintenance of environmental services
- Protection of specific natural and cultural features
- Tourism and recreation
- Education
- Sustainable use of resources from natural ecosystems
- Maintenance of cultural and traditional attributes

Having regard to the different mix and priorities accorded to these main management objectives, the following emerge clearly as distinct categories of protected areas:

Areas managed mainly for:

- I Strict protection (i.e. Strict Nature Reserve / Wilderness Area)
- II Ecosystem conservation and recreation (i.e. National Park)
- III Conservation of natural features (i.e. Natural Monument)
- IV Conservation through active management (i.e. Habitat / Species Management Area)
- V Landscape / seascape conservation and recreation (i.e. Protected Landscape / Seascape)
- VI Sustainable use of natural ecosystems (i.e. Managed Resource Protected Area)

However, most protected areas also serve a range of secondary management objectives.

This analysis is the foundation upon which the international system for categorising protected areas was developed by IUCN and which is presented in these guidelines. There are several important features to note:

- the basis of categorisation is by primary management objective;
- assignment to a category is not a commentary on management effectiveness;
- the categories system is international;

- national names for protected areas may vary;
- a new category is introduced;
- all categories are important;
- but they imply a gradation of human intervention.

These points are discussed in turn.

### The Basis of Categorisation is by Primary Management Objective

In the first instance, categories should be assigned on the basis of the primary management objective as contained in the legal definitions on which it was established; site management objectives are of supplementary value. This approach ensures a solid basis on the system, and is more practical. In assigning an area to a category, therefore, national legislation (or similar effective means, such as customary agreements or declared objectives of a non-governmental organisation) will need to be examined to identify the primary objective for which the area is to be managed.

*\* The section "The Basis of Categorisation is by Primary Management Objective" needs to be made precise in the European context, as follows:*

*In assigning an area to a category, national legislation, associated planning documents such as management plans, and the ownership of the land will need to be examined to identify the objectives of management and the ability to deliver them in practice.*

### Assignment to a Category is not a Commentary on Management Effectiveness

In interpreting the 1978 system, some have tended to confuse management effectiveness with management objectives. For example, some areas which were set up under law with objectives appropriate to Category II National Parks have been reassigned to Category V Protected Landscapes because they have not been protected effectively against human encroachment. This is to confuse two separate judgements: what an area is intended to be; and how it is run. IUCN is developing a separate system for monitoring and recording management effectiveness; when complete, this will be promoted alongside the categories system, and information on management effectiveness will also be collected and recorded at the international level.

### The Categories System is International

The system of categories has been developed, inter alia, to provide a basis for international comparison. Moreover, it is intended for use in all countries. Therefore the guidance is inevitable fairly general and will need to be interpreted with flexibility at national and regional levels. It also follows from the international nature of the system, and from the need for consistent application of the categories, that the final responsibility for determining categories should be taken at the international level. This could be IUCN, as advised by its CNPPA (now WCPA) and/ or the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (e.g., in the compilation of the UN List) in close collaboration with IUCN.

### National Names for Protected Areas may Vary

In a perfect world, IUCN's system of categories would have been in place first, and national systems would have followed on, using standard terminology. In practice, of course, different countries have

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\* All comments and interpretations made in relation to the European situation, and in addition to the original text of the IUCN "Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories", are presented in *bold italics*.

set up national systems using widely varying terminology. To take one example, "national parks" mean quite different things in different countries. Many nationally-designated "national parks" do not strictly meet the criteria set by Category II under the 1978 system. In the United Kingdom, for example, "National Parks" contain human settlement and extensive resource use, and are properly assigned to Category V. In South America, a recent IUCN study found that some 84 percent of national parks have significant resident human populations; some of these might be more appropriately placed in another category.

Since so much confusion has been caused by this in the past, Part II of these guidelines identifies the categories by their main objectives of management as well as their specific titles. Reference is also made to the titles used in the 1978 system because some, at least, have become widely known.

At the national level, of course, a variety of titles will continue to be used. Because of this, it is inevitable that the same title may mean different things in different countries; and different titles in different countries may be used to describe the same category of protected area. This is all the more reason for emphasising an international system of categorisation identified by management objectives in a system which does not depend on titles.

*Much confusion arises in Europe from the fact that many countries use terms such as National Parks and Nature Reserves in their national legislation for protected areas whose objectives differ from the Categories with such names. For example, many National Parks do not accord with Category II. Because of the complexity and sensitivity of the categorisation of protected areas in Europe, especially those that call themselves "national parks", IUCN will issue, on request, certification of the category to which each site is assigned.*

#### A New Category is Introduced

The Recommendation adopted at Caracas invited IUCN to consider further the views of some experts that a category is needed to cover predominantly natural areas which "are managed to protect their biodiversity in such a way as to provide a sustainable flow of products and services for the community". Consideration of this request has led to the inclusion in these guidelines of a category where the principal purpose of management is the sustainable use of natural ecosystems. The key point is that the area must be managed so that the long-term protection and maintenance of its biodiversity is assured. In particular, four considerations must be met:

- the area must be able to fit within the overall definition of a protected area (see above),
- at least two-thirds of the area should be, and is planned to remain in its natural state,
- large commercial plantations are not to be included, and
- a management authority must be in place.

Only if all these requirements are satisfied, can areas qualify for inclusion in this category.

#### All Categories are Important

The number assigned to a category does **not** reflect its importance: all categories are needed for conservation and sustainable development. Therefore IUCN encourages countries to develop a system of protected areas that meets its own natural and cultural heritage objectives and then apply any or all the appropriate categories. Since each category fills a particular "niche" in management terms, all countries should consider the appropriateness of the full range of management categories to their needs.

### But they imply a Gradation of Human Intervention

However, it is inherent in the system that the categories represent varying degrees of human intervention. It is true that research has shown that the extent of past human modification of ecosystems has in fact been more pervasive than was previously supposed; and that no part of the globe can escape the effects of long-distance pollution and human-induced climate change. In that sense, no area on earth can be regarded as truly "natural". The term is therefore used here as it is defined in Caring for the Earth:

Ecosystems where since the industrial revolution (1750) human impact (a) has been no greater than that of any other native species, and (b) has not affected the ecosystem's structure. Climate change is excluded from this definition.

Under this definition, categories I to III are mainly concerned with the protection of natural areas where direct human intervention and modification of the environment has been limited; in categories IV, V and VI significantly greater intervention and modification will be found.

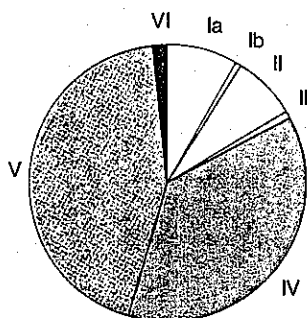
*It is very difficult to define a natural ecosystem and the point at which a changing ecosystem loses or regains its naturalness. It is perhaps impossible to fix a single point in time as a baseline for identifying natural ecosystems.*

*In the Guidelines the industrial revolution (1750) has been selected as this baseline, but prior to 1750 human settlement had already changed some areas that were later abandoned.*

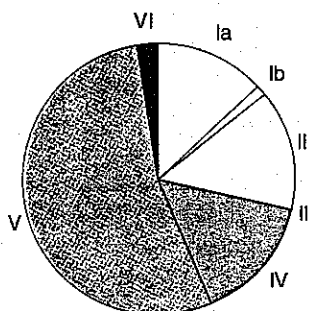
*As a result, as in parts of South America or Asia, there are parts of Europe too where formerly settled areas have reverted to forest. Because ecosystems change and evolve constantly, sometimes very rapidly, the term "natural area" may need to be applied to those places where land use has ceased, and natural succession is now underway*

The information provided in the two pie charts below is derived from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre's protected area database. The data includes all protected areas in European countries, with the exception of Greenland. In Western, Central and Eastern Europe there are more than 3,000 protected areas greater than 10 km<sup>2</sup> in area, and they cover over 600,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land area in total. This is more than 10% of the total land area of the region.

Number of Protected Areas in each IUCN Category



Area Protected in each IUCN Category



## Chapter 3. Applying the Categories

The application of the new categories must take place within an historical context. Over 9000 protected areas now meet the criteria for inclusion in the UN List and all of them have been assigned to Categories I to V of the 1978 system ( the UN List does not include Categories VI – VIII, though it does list natural World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves, as well as Ramsar sites). The categories system has been widely applied in many parts of the world, and has been used as the basis for national legislation. Moreover, the terminology – and the thinking – associated with the categories has begun to take root and be more widely adopted. For these reasons, an evolutionary approach has been used in these guidelines rather than making a clean break from the previous system.

However, the experience of using the 1978 system has been that the criteria in particular are rather too prescriptive to meet the varied conditions which prevail in different parts of the world.

Therefore, while these guidelines have been drawn up to provide a world-wide framework, they also contain somewhat greater flexibility than previously. For example, the advice on zoning or classification, management authority and ownership of land is somewhat less prescriptive than previous guidance. In assigning areas to the categories, the emphasis must be placed on clarifying the objectives for management and ensuring that the right conditions exist for their achievement. If the guidelines are applied properly and consistently, the result should be a grouping of areas within categories that is logical and globally consistent.

Issues which have emerged in the interpretation of the 1978 system are:

- the size of protected areas
- zoning within protected areas
- management responsibility
- ownership of land
- regional variations
- multiple classifications
- the areas around protected areas
- international designations.

This chapter briefly considers each of these topics in turn in relation to categories (IUCN has, of course, issued much more detailed guidance on these topics – see, for example, *Managing Protected Areas in the Tropics*, 1986 and *Marine and Coastal Protected Areas*, 1985). The definitions which follow touch further on several of these points from the perspective of each individual category.

*The special characteristics of Europe mentioned in the Introduction – such as the predominance of cultural landscapes, generally rather small holdings and the large proportion of land in private ownership, as well as the division into many countries, some of which are very small and which have a high population density – particularly complicate the designation of protected areas which fulfil the criteria of Categories I, II and VI. However, these categories are vital to ensure the protection of our valuable European natural heritage in representative areas.*

*For the same reasons, many European countries have difficulty in designating protected areas in categories I, II and VI and fulfilling the corresponding management objectives. In the case of man-modified landscapes, the prerequisite is that land exploitation is discontinued over most of the area and ecological processes allowed to proceed unhindered. The management aim should be to discontinue exploitation as far as possible: if not now, then within the medium term.*



### Size of Protected Areas

The size of a protected area should reflect the extent of land or water needed to accomplish the purposes of management. Thus, for a Category I area, the size should be that needed to ensure the integrity of the area to accomplish the management objective of strict protection, either as a baseline area or research site, or for wilderness protection. Or, in a Category II area, for example, the boundaries should be drawn sufficiently by human exploitation or occupation. For practical purposes, the UN List includes only areas of at least 1,000 ha, or 100 ha in the case of entirely protected islands, but these are somewhat arbitrary figures.

It also follows that the authorities designating a protected area incur obligations to see that its management is not negated by pressures from adjacent areas. Supplementary and compatible management arrangements may be needed for these areas even if they are not designated as part of the protected area.

### Zoning within Protected Areas

Though the primary purposes of management will determine the category to which an area is assigned, management plans will often contain management zones for a variety of purposes which take account of local conditions. However, in order to establish the appropriate category, at least three-quarters and preferably more of the area must be managed for the primary purpose; and the management of the remaining area must not be in conflict with that primary purpose. Cases where parts of a single management unit are classified by law as having different management objectives are discussed under the heading of multiple classifications.

*Measures which serve a conservation purpose, e.g. habitat creation and restoration, species preservation, preservation of structural diversity or traditional, sustainable forms of land-use, are not in conflict with the primary purpose. The classification of zones using the principles in the six management categories is a valuable tool, although it should not be used to assign an individual protected area to more than one IUCN category.*

### Management Responsibility

Governments have a fundamental responsibility, which they cannot abdicate, for the existence and well-being of national systems of protected areas. They should regard such areas as important components of national strategies for conservation and sustainable development. However, the actual responsibility for management of individual protected areas may rest with central, regional or local government, non-governmental organisations, the private sector or the local community. These guidelines, therefore, contain considerable flexibility in the advice given on the form of managing authority for each category of protected area. The test, after all, is whether the designated authority is capable of achieving the management objectives. In practice, however, protected area categories I – III will usually be the responsibility of some form of governmental body. Responsibility for categories IV and V may rest with local administrations, albeit usually working within the framework of national legislation.

### Ownership of Land

As with the question of the managing authority, the key test is whether the type of ownership is compatible with the achievement of the management objectives for the area. In many countries ownership by some form of public body (whether nationally or locally based), or an appropriately constituted non-governmental body with conservation objectives, facilitates management and is therefore to be favoured in Categories I – III in particular. However, this is not universally true, and – in the remaining categories – private ownership will be much more common, often being the

predominant form of land ownership. Moreover, whatever the ownership, experience shows that the success of management depends greatly on the good will and support of local communities. In such cases, the managing authority will need to have good consultative and communications systems, and effective mechanism which may include incentives, to secure compliance with management objectives.

*Due to the extent of private land ownership in Europe, a relatively high proportion of protected areas in Categories I, II, III and IV in this region contain privately-owned land. In order to achieve management objectives, long-term arrangements will be needed to secure the conservation interest in the management of private land; this may involve various measures, such as incentives, compensation and regulations.*

#### Regional Variation

The categories system is intended to operate in the same way in all countries so as to facilitate the collection and handling of comparable data and to improve communication between countries. IUCN does not therefore favour different standards being applied in different parts of the world. However, the conditions for the establishment and management of protected areas vary greatly from region to region, and from country to country. For example, regions like Europe with long-settled, long-managed landscapes in multiple ownership are not, on the whole, as suited to the establishment of Category II areas as are some other regions – but on other hand, their circumstances are more conducive to the establishment of Category IV and V areas.

The greater flexibility which is inherent in these guidelines should help in their application to the conditions in different regions and countries. The range of examples set out in Part III shows how an international categories system can, in fact, be applied to countries with widely differing needs.

*The statement above is only illustrative and does not mean that in Europe preference is given to the designation of Category IV and V protected areas.*

#### Multiple Classifications

Protected areas of different categories are often contiguous; sometimes one category "nests" within another. Thus many Category V areas contain within them Category I and IV areas; some will adjoin Category II areas. Again, some Category II areas contain Category Ia and Ib areas. This is entirely consistent with the application of the system, providing such areas are identified separately for accounting and reporting purposes. Although there are obvious benefits in having the entire area within the responsibility of one management authority, this may not always be appropriate; in such cases, close cooperation between authorities will be essential.

#### Areas around Protected Areas

Protected areas are not isolated units. Ecologically, economically, politically and culturally, they are linked to the areas around them. For that reason, the planning and management of protected areas must be incorporated within regional planning, and supported by the policies adopted for wider areas. For the purposes of the application of the categories system, however, where one area is used to "buffer" or surround another, both their categories should be separately identified and recorded.

## International Designations

The 1978 system identified separate categories for World Heritage sites (natural) and Biosphere Reserves. However, these are not categories in their own right but international designations. In practice, nearly all World Heritage / Natural Sites are nationally designated and will therefore be recorded under one of the categories. The same will apply to many Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar sites, and other areas designated under regional agreements. Therefore the following principle will continue to apply: providing the area is identified under national arrangements for special protection, it should be appropriately recorded under one of the standard categories. Its special international status will be recorded, for example, in the UN List and in all other appropriate IUCN publications.

## PART II

### The Management Categories

This part of the guidelines examines each of the six categories in turn and considers them under the following headings:

- Definition
- Objectives of Management
- Guidance for Selection
- Organisational Responsibility
- Equivalent Category in 1978 System

*\* The Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 8) requires signatory States to develop systems of protected areas, and IUCN/WCPA has advised that this be done by using the full range of protected area management categories. It is desirable that all countries should use the full range of categories wherever possible.*

*However, in Europe, Categories Ia/Ib, III and VI especially are under-represented relative to other regions, both in number and extent. In some parts of the region they are missing completely. Such areas are very important to protect the natural diversity of Europe over the long term. It is desirable therefore to encourage the wider use of these categories in particular.*

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\* All comments and interpretations made in relation to the European situation, and in addition to the original text of the IUCN "Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories", are presented in *bold italics*.

**CATEGORY I**                    **Strict Nature Reserve / Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for science or wilderness protection**

**CATEGORY Ia**                **Strict Nature Reserve: protected area managed mainly for Science**

### Definition

Area of land and/or sea possessing some outstanding or representative ecosystems, geological or physiological features and/or species, available primarily for scientific research and/ or environmental monitoring.

### Objectives of Management

- to preserve habitats, ecosystems and species in as undisturbed state as possible;
- to maintain genetic resources in a dynamic and evolutionary state;
- to maintain established ecological processes;
- to safeguard structural landscape features or rock exposures;
- 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 minimise disturbance by careful planning and execution of research and other approved activities; and
- to limit public access.

### Guidance for Selection

- The area should be large enough to ensure the integrity of its ecosystems and to accomplish the management objectives for which it is protected.
- The area should be significantly free of direct human intervention and capable of remaining so.
- The conservation of the area's biodiversity should be achievable through protection and not require substantial active management or habitat manipulation (e.g. Category IV).

### Organisational Responsibility

Ownership and control should be by the national or other level of government, acting through a professionally qualified agency, or by a private foundation, university or institution which has an established research or conservation function, or by owners working in cooperation with any of the foregoing government or private institutions. Adequate safeguards and controls relating to long-term protection should be secured before designation. International agreements over areas subject to disputed national sovereignty can provide exceptions (e.g. Antarctica).

## Equivalent Category in 1978 System

Scientific Reserve / Strict Nature Reserve

## Considerations for applying the categories in Europe

### Category Ia

*All over Europe there are many strictly protected research areas, but these are generally not large enough to ensure the integrity of their ecosystems (most of them are smaller than 2 000 ha). The reasons for this are high human population densities and high levels of land exploitation. Furthermore, the value of strict natural areas for habitat and ecosystem research has only been fully appreciated fairly recently. Designation of larger protected areas or enlargement of existing areas would contribute to better understanding and conservation of representative ecosystems.*

*In order to minimise the disturbance caused by research, management plans for this type of protected area should prescribe the possible research activities. Research and monitoring activities should not cause habitat changes. Public access, if any, should be allowed only in larger protected areas in this category, and even then it should be limited to marked trails in a small part of the area.*

**CATEGORY Ib**      **Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection**

Definition

Large area of unmodified or slightly modified land, and/or sea, retaining its natural character and influence, without permanent or significant habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition.

Objectives of Management

- to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to experience understanding and enjoyment of areas that have been largely undisturbed by human action over a long period of time;
- to maintain the essential natural attributes and qualities of the environment over the long term;
- to provide for public access at levels and of a type which will serve best the physical and spiritual well-being of visitors and maintain the wilderness qualities of the area for present and future generations; and
- to enable indigenous human communities living at low density and in balance with the available resources to maintain their lifestyle.

Guidance for Selection

- The area should possess high natural quality, be governed primarily by the forces of nature, with human disturbance substantially absent, and be likely to continue to display those attributes if managed as proposed.
- The area should contain significant ecological, geological, physiogeographic, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historic value.
- The area should offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, enjoyed once the area has been reached, by simple, quiet, non-polluting and non-intrusive means of travel (i.e. non-motorised).
- The area should be of sufficient size to make practical such preservation and use.

Organisational Responsibility

As for Sub-Category Ia.

Equivalent Category in 1978 System

This sub-category did not appear in the 1978 system, but has been introduced following the IUCN General Assembly Resolution (16/34) on Protection of Wilderness Resources and Values, adopted at the 1984 General Assembly in Madrid, Spain.

## Considerations for applying the categories in Europe

### Category Ib

*Outside parks of the Nordic region, Europe is generally lacking in large wilderness areas. Such areas can be found only in those parts of Europe which are scarcely suitable for any type of utilisation and which have thus remained uninhabited. There is therefore virtually no tradition of this type of protection in the protected areas system of Europe.*

*Wilderness is a term of human experience and not ecological in a strict sense. Therefore "wilderness" may include areas exploited for a limited period in the past, without the natural diversity of habitats and species being significantly altered, and which have been returned to natural succession. Small scale wilderness areas in Europe – with the exception of arctic habitats – were not able to withstand the pressures for intensive land exploitation across almost the entire surface of the continent. On the other hand, there is potential for gaining new "wilderness" - for example on former military areas where productive forms of land-use have been halted. Such areas, provided they are of a considerable size and depending on the type of habitat, should be protected and natural succession allowed to continue without direct human influence.*



**CATEGORY II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation**

Definition

Natural area of land and/or sea, designated to (a) protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations, (b) exclude exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation of the area and (c) provide a foundation for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities, all of which must be environmentally and culturally compatible.

Objectives of Management

- to protect natural and scenic areas of national and international significance for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational or tourist purposes;
- to perpetuate, in as natural a state as possible, representative examples of physiographic regions, biotic communities, genetic resources, and species, to provide ecological stability and diversity;
- to manage visitor use for inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational purposes at a level which maintain the area in a natural or near natural state.

*Recreation in these areas is based first and foremost upon encountering and experiencing unspoilt nature. Environmental and nature education as a part of the visitor management and recreation programme are a primary management task. Therefore "Promotion of environmental education and understanding of nature" is emphasised as a management objective.*

- to eliminate and thereafter prevent exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation.

*This requirement also applies to areas in which the land was exploited in any way prior to designation, and which were left to natural succession following designation.*

*"Exploitation" includes hunting and fishing. In individual cases it is the duty of the authority responsible for the Category II protected area to take measures which safeguard the primary management objectives.*

- to maintain respect for the ecological, geomorphologic, sacred or aesthetic attributes which warranted designation; and
- to take into account the needs of indigenous people, including subsistence resource use, in so far as these will not adversely affect the other objectives of management.

## Guidance for Selection

- The area should contain a representative sample of major natural regions, features or scenery, where plant and animal species, habitats and geomorphological sites are of special spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and tourist significance.
- The area should be large enough to contain one or more entire ecosystems not materially altered by current human occupation or exploitation.

## Organisational Responsibility

Ownership and management should normally be by the highest competent authority of the nation having jurisdiction over it. However, they may also be vested in another level of government, council of indigenous people, foundation or other legally established body which has dedicated the area to long-term conservation.

*In Europe, the highest competent authority of the country is responsible for the legal designation of this category of protected area. This authority must ensure that the area is administered according to the management objectives.*

## Equivalent Category in 1978 System

National Park.

## Considerations for applying the categories in Europe

### Category II

*The special characteristics of Europe - its relatively high population density and the long history of human modification of the landscape - complicate the designation of protected areas which are large and natural enough to fulfil the criteria of this Category. However, this category is vital to ensure the protection of a proper representation of Europe's natural heritage. Natural areas may include those which were exploited for a limited period in the past, and within a limited area, without the natural diversity of habitats and species being significantly altered; and which have been left again to natural succession (restoration ecology) without any incompatible use of the natural resources. In areas which were modified by people prior to designation, but in which ecological processes are allowed to proceed unhindered following designation, some restoration works (for example the removal of exotic tree species) may be necessary to improve the initial state of habitats. Management for restoration must be clearly limited in time and extent, and should not conflict with the main aim of protection.*

*Recreation and tourism activities in these areas should not conflict with the main aim of protection. Therefore, such activities should be nature-oriented and subordinate to nature conservation objectives. They should not be test sites for all types of technical equipment, like mountain bikes, motorbikes, 4-wheel drive vehicles, paragliders and low-flying aircraft.*

*Political ambitions in some countries can make the use of this category problematic. Some national parks that are intended for Category II do not meet the required standards, and indeed may not fit well into any category. IUCN is ready to issue a certificate on request to certify whether a particular area merits designation as a Category II site (see page 15). Also, both EUROPARC and IUCN/WCPA are ready to assist countries to improve the management of such sites so that they do meet the criteria of Category II.*

### **CATEGORY III**

### **Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features**

#### Definition

Area containing one, or more, specific natural or natural/cultural feature which is of outstanding or unique value because of its inherent rarity, representative or aesthetic qualities or cultural significance.

#### Objectives of Management

- to protect or preserve in perpetuity specific outstanding natural features because of their natural significance, unique or representational quality, and/or spiritual connotations;
- to an extent consistent with the foregoing objective, to provide opportunities for research, education, interpretation and public appreciation;
- to eliminate and thereafter prevent exploitation or occupation inimical to the purpose of designation; and
- to deliver to any resident population such benefits as are consistent with the other objectives of management.

#### Guidance for Selection

- The area should contain one or more features of outstanding significance (appropriate natural features include spectacular waterfalls, caves, craters, fossil beds, sand dunes and marine features, along with unique or representative fauna and flora; associated cultural features might include cave dwellings, cliff-top forts, archaeological sites, or natural sites which have heritage significance to indigenous peoples).
- The area should be large enough to protect the integrity of the feature and its immediately related surroundings.

#### Organisational Responsibility

Ownership and management should be by the national government or, with appropriate safe-guards and controls, by another level of government, council of indigenous people, non-profit trust, corporation or, exceptionally, by a private body, provided the long-term protection of the inherent character of the area is assured before designation.

#### Equivalent Category in 1978 System

Natural Monument / Natural Landmark

## Considerations for applying the categories in Europe

### Category III

*The use of Category III classification is not well developed in Europe, but potential sites exist in various parts of Europe with differing national designations, for example sea cliffs or karst features.*

*This type of protected area is usually designated across a relatively small area (under 1.000 ha), but may be visited by large numbers of visitors. Therefore good visitor facilities and a buffer zone large enough to assimilate the visitor pressure are important if the main values of the site are not to be destroyed.*

*It should be noted that in some national legislation the term "national monument" is used in a somewhat different sense, (i.e. relating to cultural monuments) which can confuse the meaning of Category III classification.*

**CATEGORY IV      Habitat / Species Management Areas: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention**

Definition

Area of land and/or sea subject to active intervention for management purposes so as to ensure the maintenance of habitats and/or to meet the requirements of specific species.

Objectives of Management

- to secure and maintain the habitat conditions necessary to protect significant species, groups of species, biotic communities or physical features of the environment where these require specific human manipulation for optimum management;
- to facilitate scientific research and environmental monitoring as primary activities associated with sustainable resource management;
- to develop limited areas for public education and appreciation of the characteristics of the habitats concerned and of the work of wildlife management;
- to eliminate and thereafter prevent exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation; and
- to deliver such benefits to people living within the designated area as are consistent with the other objectives of management.

Guidance for Selection

- The area should play an important role in the protection of nature and the survival of species, (incorporating, as appropriate, breeding areas, wetlands, coral reefs, estuaries, grasslands, forests or spawning areas, including marine feeding beds).
- The area should be one where the protection of the habitat is essential to the well-being of nationally or locally-important flora, or to resident or migratory fauna.
- Conservation of these habitats and species should depend upon active intervention by the management authority, if necessary through habitat manipulation (e.g. Category Ia).
- The size of the area should depend on the habitat requirements of the species to be protected and may range from relatively small to very extensive.

Organisational Responsibility

Ownership and management should be by the national government or, with appropriate safe-guards and controls, by another level of government, non-profit trust, corporation, private group or individual.

Equivalent Category in 1978 System

Nature Conservation Reserve / Managed Nature Reserve / Wildlife Sanctuary

## Considerations for applying the categories in Europe

### Category IV

*The management objective is to secure and maintain specific stages of the habitat succession necessary to protect preferred species composition or physical features of the environment through periodic habitat management. This type of management is also intended to increase the biodiversity of preferred biotic communities. In Category IV protected areas a few constituents of the habitat may be permanently managed in order to fulfil the management objective.*

*In Europe, many relatively small areas which form part of some larger protected areas correspond to this management category, but are therefore not individually classified as a Category IV protected area.*

**CATEGORY V      Protected Landscape / Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape / seascape conservation and recreation**

Definition

Area of land, with coast and sea as appropriate, where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant aesthetic, ecological and/or cultural value, and often with high biological diversity. Safeguarding the integrity of this traditional interaction is vital to the protection, maintenance and evolution of such an area.

*In Europe it is above all the regional nature parks, nature parks, regional parks, landscape parks or the British national parks which belong to this category. They protect the traditionally developed cultural landscapes of Europe, which are accorded the same value as natural landscapes.*

Objectives of Management

- to maintain the harmonious interaction of nature and culture through the protection of landscape and/or seascape and the continuation of traditional land uses, building practices and social and cultural manifestations;
- to support lifestyles and economic activities which are in harmony with nature and the preservation of the social and cultural fabric of the communities concerned;
- to maintain the diversity of landscape and habitat, and of associated species and ecosystems;
- to eliminate where necessary, and thereafter prevent, land uses and activities which are inappropriate in scale and/or character;
- to provide opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation and tourism appropriate in type and scale to the essential qualities of the areas;
- to encourage scientific and educational activities which will contribute to the long-term well-being of resident populations and to the development of public support for the environmental protection of such areas; and
- to bring benefits to, and to contribute to the welfare of, the local community through the provision of natural products (such as forest and fisheries products) and services (such as clean water or income derived from sustainable forms of tourism).

Guidance for Selection

- The area should possess a landscape and/or coastal and island seascape of high scenic quality, with diverse associated habitats, flora and fauna along with manifestations of unique or traditional land-use patterns and social organisations as evidenced in human settlements and local customs, livelihoods, and beliefs.
- The area should provide opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation and tourism within its normal lifestyle and economic activities.

## Organisational Responsibility

The area may be owned by a public authority, but is more likely to comprise a mosaic of private and public ownership operating a variety of management regimes. These regimes should be subject to a degree of planning or other control and supported, where appropriate, by public funding and other incentives, to ensure that the quality of the landscape/seascape and the relevant local customs and beliefs are maintained in the long term.

*This category of protected area also requires a legal basis and an independent management body, equipped with the authority, and human and financial resources necessary to ensure that management objectives are implemented.*

## Equivalent Category in 1978 System

Protected Landscape

## Considerations for applying the categories in Europe

### Category V

*In Europe, a continent farmed or otherwise exploited on a large scale for thousands of years, the extent of cultural landscapes is enormous. The variability of Category V classified protected areas is also large; types of designation at national level, include national parks, regional parks, regional nature parks, nature parks and protected landscapes. Misuse of this category is common. Some areas which do not meet the basic IUCN definition of a protected area have been incorrectly classified as Category V sites.*

*In many parts of Europe this type of protected area represents a pilot area for sustainable land-use practices. Due to the varied utilisation of these protected areas, a good management plan is needed even more than for the other categories. In order to fulfil the management objectives, a significant part of this type of area should primarily be managed for conservation purposes.*



**CATEGORY VI      Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems**

Definition

Area containing predominantly unmodified natural systems, managed to ensure long-term protection and maintenance of biological diversity, while providing at the same time a sustainable flow of natural products and services to meet community needs.

Objectives for Management

- to protect and maintain the biological diversity and other natural values of the area in the long-term;
- to promote sound management practices for sustainable production purposes;
- to protect the natural resource base from being alienated for other land-use purposes that would be detrimental to the area's biological diversity; and
- to contribute to regional and national development.

Guidance for Selection

- The area should be at least two-thirds in a natural condition, although it may also contain limited areas of modified ecosystems; large commercial plantations would **not** be appropriate for inclusion.
- The area should be large enough to absorb sustainable resource uses without detriment to its overall long-term natural values.

Organisational Responsibility

Management should be undertaken by public bodies with an unambiguous remit for conservation, and carried out in partnership with the local community; or management may be provided through local custom supported and advised by governmental or non-governmental agencies. Ownership may be by the national or other level of government, the community, private individuals, or a combination of these.

Equivalent Category in 1978 System

This category does not correspond directly with any of those in the 1978 system, although it is likely to include some areas previously classified as "Resource Reserves", "Natural Biotic Areas / Anthropological Reserves" and "Multiple Use Management Areas / Managed Resource Areas".

Considerations for applying the categories in Europe

Category VI

*Application of this new category (see page 13) presents a challenge. The areas to which it might apply most readily include some parts of Scandinavia, including those inhabited by the Saami people, and parts of the marine environment. IUCN and EUROPARC encourage countries to explore its potential application in these and other situations.*

## PART III

### Examples for Applying the Categories

*This part of the guidelines provides some examples of protected areas to illustrate how to apply the six protected area management categories. The presented sites are intended as typical examples of their particular protected area management category, and do not cover all biogeographical or political regions in Europe.*

#### **Typical Category Ia protected areas:**

## Malla Reserve (Finland)

#### **Designation and legal basis of management**

The area has been protected since 1916 following a decision of the District Governor. The Reserve was established on 18.2.1938 by the Finnish Government. The government decree of 1981 defines the strict protection rules. The authority responsible for the reserve is the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Research Forest Services, Box 18, FIN-01301 Vantaa).

Size of the reserve is 3 088 ha.

#### **Essential natural, cultural and/or social values of the area**

The area constitutes an important part of the virgin nature of Mountain Lapland. The Malla Strict Nature Area is the only area which has no reindeer management. The only habitat type is rock/alpine (CORINE land cover).

**Main aim of protection** is to protect this typical area of Mountain Lapland in its pristine stage.

#### **In situ management**

In the Malla Reserve there is no habitat management, wildlife management or utilisation. Fundamental research and applied research for management purposes are carried out by permit only. The reserve also supports an adjacent Biological Research Station of the University of Helsinki. Access is allowed only with special permission, and movement within the reserve is permissible only on marked routes. There are no visitor facilities.

Malla State Nature Reserve (FIN), a wilderness area in Finnish Lapland (T. Heiramo)





The oldest Central European national park, the Swiss National Park (CH), protects wild growing nature. (Heinrich Haller)

#### **Designation and legal basis of management**

The Swiss National Park was founded on 01.08.1914. The valid act of protection is the Federal Law for the Swiss National Park in the Canton of the Grisons of 19.12.1980.

Management regulations prescribe activities in the park. The managing park authority is the Swiss National Park Administration (Nationalparkhaus Zernez, CH-7530 Zernez).

Size of the park is 16 887 ha.

#### **Essential natural, cultural and/or social values of the area**

Dolomite calcareous rock and in some places much more ancient rock have been fantastically shaped by weather. The highest peaks reach 3 174 m. Following the CORINE land cover, the main habitat types are wetlands/marshes/bogs (0.2%), grass/scrub (20.8%), woodlands (28.7%) and rock/alpine (50.3%). Characteristic alpine habitats retain rich flora and fauna, among others ibex (*Capra ibex*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), marmot (*Marmota marmota*), bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*), edelweiss (*Leontopodium alpinum*), yellow Alpine Poppy (*Papaver rheticum*) and Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos alpinus*). In forests, the dominate species is Mountain Pine (*Pinus mugo*). Larch (*Larix decidua*), Cembran Pine (*Pinus cembra*) and Spruce (*Picea abies*) are also very common.

Main aim of protection is the conservation of the natural habitat, natural succession without the influence of humans or domestic animals, and scientific study. The objective of the Swiss National Park is to permit nature to run its natural course, and to be able to observe its evolution. Therefore management objectives permit only research, monitoring, survey and some information for visitors and prohibit any human impact or utilisation.

#### **In situ management**

In the Swiss National Park there is no habitat management, wildlife management, or utilisation. Fundamental research and applied research for management purposes are carried out in the park.

Public access is permitted only on marked paths in summer months. A visitor centre exists, there is one nature/interpretative trail, and education programmes and activities take place.

## **Typical Category Ib protected area:**

# **North-East Svalbard Nature Reserve (Norway)**

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### **Designation and legal basis of management**

The reserve was founded on 11.10.1973 by Royal Decree in accordance with provisions under the Svalbard Act, and approved by the Norwegian Government. It is an UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserve since 1976.

Management regulations and a management plan are currently being compiled. The managing authorities are the Directorate for Nature Management (Tungasletta 2, N-7005 Trondheim) and Governor of Svalbard (Environmental Department, N-9171 Longyearbyen).

Size of the reserve is 1 903 000 ha. The nature reserve includes all the marine area inside the territorial waters around the islands within the reserve (the size of the marine area is not calculated; the territorial waters extend up to 4 nautical miles from the coast).

### **Essential natural, cultural and/or social values of the area**

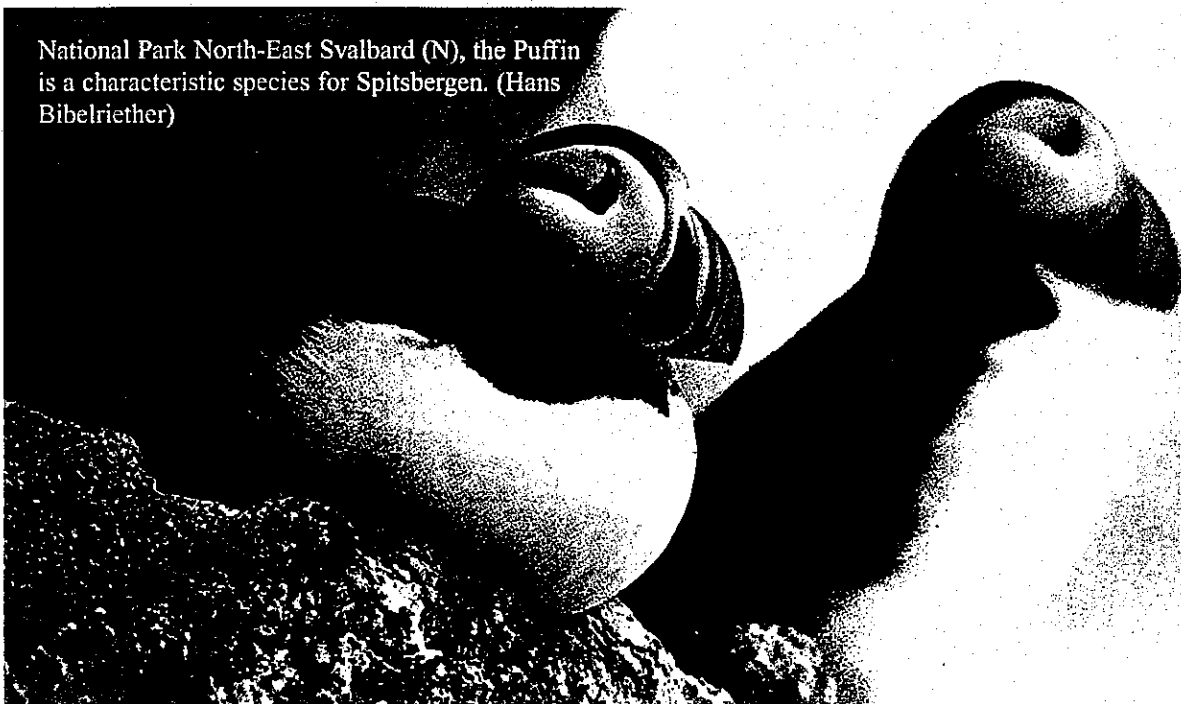
North-east Svalbard Nature Reserve ranges from the sea bed to 835 m above sea level, with a significant value as an Arctic wilderness area both at national and global scale. Except for some coastal areas, the main part of the North-east Svalbard Nature Reserve is covered by glaciers. The main CORINE habitat types are coastal and wetland/marsh/bog. Ground which is free of snow in the summer constitutes important wildlife and vegetation habitats of the Mid and High Arctic vegetation regions. The most important denning area of the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) on the Svalbard archipelago is inside the reserve borders. In addition, the area is of significant value as a living, breeding and haul-out area for other sea mammals such as the walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*), ringed seal (*Phoca hispida*) and bearded seal (*Erignathus barbatus*). Brent goose (*Branta bernicla*) mainly stays in this area during the summer season. The Svalbard reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus platyrhincus*) a subspecies endemic to the archipelago and eider ducks (*Somateria mollissima*) are abundant.

**Main aim of protection** is to preserve wilderness and to secure polar bear denning areas.

### **In situ management**

In the North-east Svalbard Nature Reserve there is no habitat management, wildlife management or utilisation. There is no permanent research nor visitor facilities. Besides annual inspection rounds carried out by ship by the Governor's office there is no permanent environmental monitoring. Access is controlled in the whole area, including a ban on motorised land vehicles. On the island group Kong Karls Land there is an absolute entry ban.

National Park North-East Svalbard (N), the Puffin is a characteristic species for Spitsbergen. (Hans Bibelriether)



*Typical Category II protected areas:*  
**Bialowieza National Park**  
**(Poland)**

**Designation and legal basis of management**

Founded in 1921 as a Forestry "Preservation", renamed "National Park in Bialowieza" 1932, established as Bialowieza National Park in 1947, and enlarged to double the size by decree of the Council of Ministers on 16.07.96.

Until 1996, a management plan was approved annually by the Scientific Council of the Park and Ministry of Environment. Following the enlargement of the park, a new management plan is under preparation. The managing park authority is the Bialowieza National Park Administration (Direction Park Palacowy 5, PL - 17230 Bialowieza). This site is also a World Heritage Site with Belarus - Belovezhskaya Puscha/Bialowieza Forest. The Polish component was added to the list in 1979, the rest in 1997. The site has also been a Biosphere Reserve since 1979.

Size of the area is 10 502 ha.

**Essential natural, cultural and/or social values of the area**

Lowland, natural forest close to primeval state, typical to boreonemoral zone of Europe. Following the CORINE classification the main habitat types are wetlands/marshes/bogs (3%) grass/scrub (5%), woodlands (91%) and agricultural/man-made habitat (1%). Vegetation consists of 20 forest communities supplemented by brush-wood, marshland and water vegetation. Rich flora: 775 species of vascular plant, 275 species of lichen, over 3 500 species of fungi (among them 450 mushrooms). The fauna consists of over 12 000 species, among them free roaming European bison (*Bison bonasus*), elks (*Alces alces*), lynx (*Lynx lynx*), wolves (*Canis lupus*), pygmy owl (*Glaucidium passerinum*), 8 species of woodpecker, hazel grouse (*Tetrastes bonasia*).

**Main aim of protection** is the protection of whole ecosystems (vegetation, flora, fauna, natural environment) and natural processes together with the remains of former human activity (medieval tumulus, trees with remains of bee hives, charcoal pits and others). The park provides possibilities for scientific investigation providing the methods do not conflict with the main protection goal, and for nature-oriented tourism and educational activities which do not conflict with the main goal.

**In situ management**

Until the park enlargement in 1996, the primary conservation objectives were fulfilled across 98% of the park's area. Following enlargement, there is now no habitat or wildlife management and no utilisation of natural resources in Zone A (45% of the territory – the old park). In Zone B (53% of the territory – the recently enclosed area) there is no habitat management across 80% of this zone, the wildlife management is limited to species protection and density control ("culling"). In Zone C (2% of the territory) there is permanent habitat and wildlife management, and utilisation of natural resources (agriculture, grazing, water management). Fundamental research and applied research for management purposes is carried out in the park.





Bialowieza National Park (PL) - the most famous virgin forest in Central Europe. (Czeslaw Okolow)

Access to Zone A is permitted only to scientists, and for some guided tours in a small part of the territory. Within the Zone B, access is limited to marked trails for visitors. Local inhabitants can move freely outside closed areas. In the Bialowieza National Park there is a visitor centre as well as nature and interpretative trails, and education programmes and activities take place.



## Val Grande National Park (Italy)

A characteristically deep carved mountain valley in the Val Grande National park (I).  
(Agenzia Fotografica Pessina)

### **Designation and legal basis of management**

The park was founded in 1992 by a Decree of the Government; part of the area (the Pedum rocky mass) has been protected since 1967.

The managing park authority is the Val Grande National Park Administration (Villa S. Remigio, I-28048 Pallanza-Verbania).

Size of the area is 14 598 ha.

### **Essential natural, cultural and/or social values of the area**

The Val Grande is the largest wild area in Italy but also an "outdoor museum" of ancient Alpine civilisation. The abandonment of the alpine pastures and halt of deforestation signified the return of the wilderness: nature became the owner once more. The richness and the variety of the vegetation are one of the greater attractions, with impenetrable woods and very colourful flora. The Park shelters wild animals; has steep, deep valleys and very clear waters in gorges protected by steep slopes and impressive panoramas from the Monte Rosa to the Lago Maggiore. Woods are the dominant habitat, covering 70% of the park area; chestnut, beech, spruce fir and silver fir predominate. Alpine meadows and shrubs cover 18%, rocky/alpine habitat 10% and wetlands 1% of the park. The varied geological forms and remnants of historical buildings are also important characteristics of the park.

Main aim of protection is to protect the environmental integrity of the Val Grande.

### **In situ management**

Across 90% of the park there is no utilisation of natural resources, habitat management and wildlife management, and hunting is forbidden. Utilisation of natural resources across 10% of the area is limited to non-intensive forestry and agriculture, and use of water power. Fundamental research and applied research for management purposes is carried out in the park.

Access is open, but mainly limited to marked trails. In the Val Grande National Park there are visitor centres as well as nature and interpretative trails, and education programmes and activities take place.

*Typical Category III protected areas:*

# Škocjanske jame Regional Park (Slovenia)

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## **Designation and legal basis of management**

This area of the Škocjan caves was designated a World Heritage Site on 28.11.1986, and the Regional Park founded on 01.10.1996 by the Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia with the Act on the Regional Park Škocjanske jame (Ur.l. RS št. 57/96 - Official Gazette RS No. 57/96).

A park management plan is being prepared. The managing park authority is the Public Agency Park Škocjanske jame (Uprava parka, Škocjan 2, SI-6215 Divača).

Size of the underground area is 13.5 ha, the protected surface area is 413 ha.

## **Essential natural, cultural and/or social values of the area**

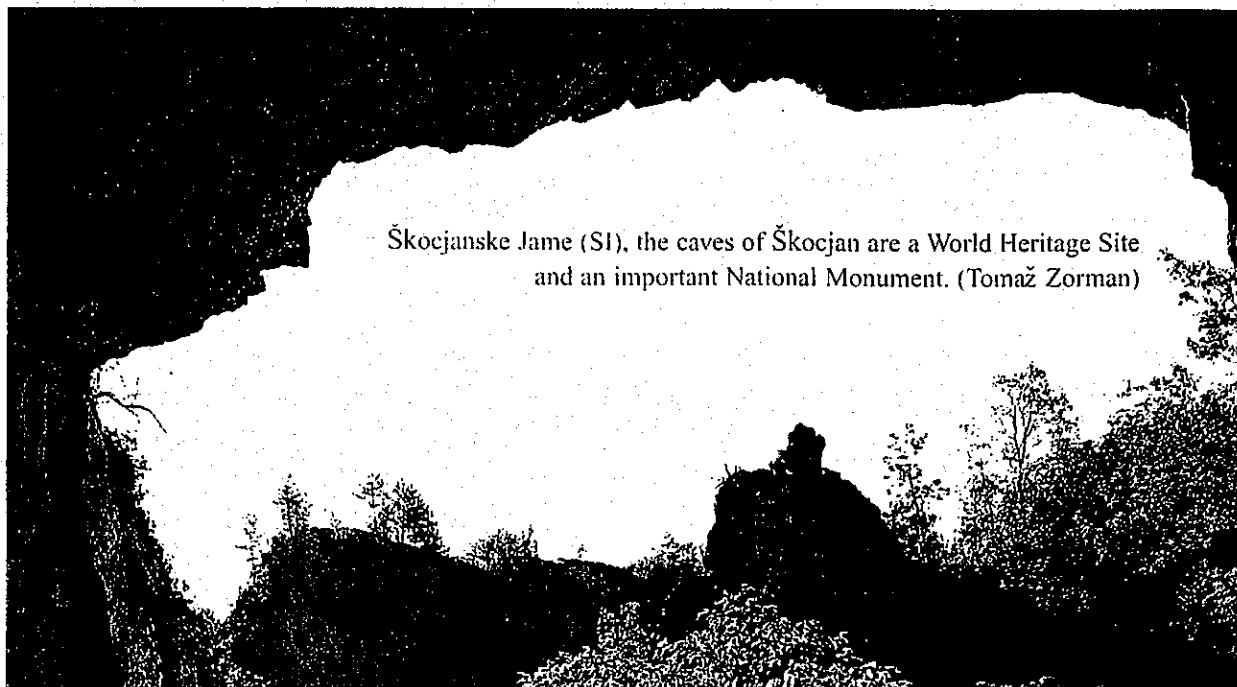
A complex system of collapsed dolinas, underground cave passages and individual natural and cultural monuments. The contact between flysch and limestone forms extraordinary, beautiful collapsed dolinas of up to 163m deep. There are different caves with rich flowstone, stalactites and stalagmites, and an immense underground gorge of the river Reka. The largest cross section of the Martel chamber is 12 000 m<sup>2</sup> and up to 146 m high. In collapsed dolinas and the cave entrance there is a unique microclimate, with both Alpine and sub-mediterranean flora and fauna. Extraordinary rich biotic diversity with many endangered species at the cave entrances and outside the caves, and numerous endemic species in the underground area. There are typical Karst architecture forms in three villages and several kilometres of old exploration paths sculpted on the edge of the precipices. There are rich archaeological sites in caves and outside.

**Main aim of protection** is protection of the complex cave system, natural habitats, caves and archaeological sites, restoration of architectural heritage and sustainable management.

## **In situ management**

In the underground cave system and the collapsed dolinas there is no habitat management. The forms of utilisation in the buffer zone do not endanger the main aim of protection. Fundamental research and applied research for management purposes is carried out in the park.

Access to the caves is controlled, only guided tours are possible. In the Škocjanske Jame Regional Park there is a visitor centre and nature trails, and education programmes and activities take place.







### **Designation and legal basis of management**

Designated as a World Heritage Site in 1986 under the Convention Concerning Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, UNESCO 1972. The site is mainly owned by the National Trust, and in accordance with the National Trust Act (1907) and the National Trust Act (Northern Ireland, 1946) the area is preserved inalienably. The site lies within the Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and has been a National Nature Reserve since 1997.

The site has a management plan. The managing authority is the National Trust's Northern Ireland Regional Office (Rowallane House, Saintfield, Co. Down BT 27 4 LH, Northern Ireland).

Size of the area is 71 ha.

### **Essential natural, cultural and/or social values of the area**

A prime example of the Earth's evolutionary history during the Tertiary epoch, and containing examples of rare and superlative natural phenomena. The Causeway Coast also contains a nautical archaeological site of outstanding cultural importance close to the Giant's Causeway – the site of the sinking of the Spanish Armada galleon "Girona". The main (CORINE) habitat is coastal (100%), including wetland/marsh/bog (2%), grass/scrub (70%), rock (20%) and agricultural/man-made habitat (6%).

**Main aim of protection** is to preserve the site inalienably for the nation under ownership by the National Trust; to maintain the site in its natural state while allowing safe public access, and to protect the geological interest and flora and fauna.

### **In situ management**

The site is divided into two major zones. Zone A comprises Giant's Causeway main stone formations (1 ha) without any utilisation. Zone B comprises the remainder of the World Heritage Site (70 ha) and there such types of utilisation take place that do not endanger the main aim of protection. Research and monitoring take place.

Access is free, but limited for reasons of public safety and habitat protection. The need to provide safe access for tourists can, at times, necessitate remedial work. This does not affect the main Causeway stones. At the site there is a visitor centre and self-guided trails, and National Trust Education programme takes place on site.

## *Typical Category IV protected area:*

# **Weerribben National Park (Netherlands)**

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### **Designation and legal basis of management**

National Park was founded in 1992, by a Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries.

A management plan is currently under revision. The area is managed by the State Forestry Service. The park authority is the Weerribben National Park Administration (Postbus 10078, NL-8000 GB Zwolle).

Size of the area is 3 510 ha.

### **Essential natural, cultural and/or social values of the area**

Water and marsh landscape predominate, originating from the extraction of peat. Various stages of natural development from open water to carr woodland allow richness in habitats and a wide variety of wildlife. Landscapes which occur in one area of the park must be managed while a third of the park's area can be left to develop into a natural carr woodland without human interference. It is considered the most important marshland in North Western Europe. According to CORINE classification, habitat types are reedbeds (25%), grass/ lads (15%), hay meadows (15%), woodlands (25%), man-made habitat (roads, buildings) (10%) and open waters (10%).

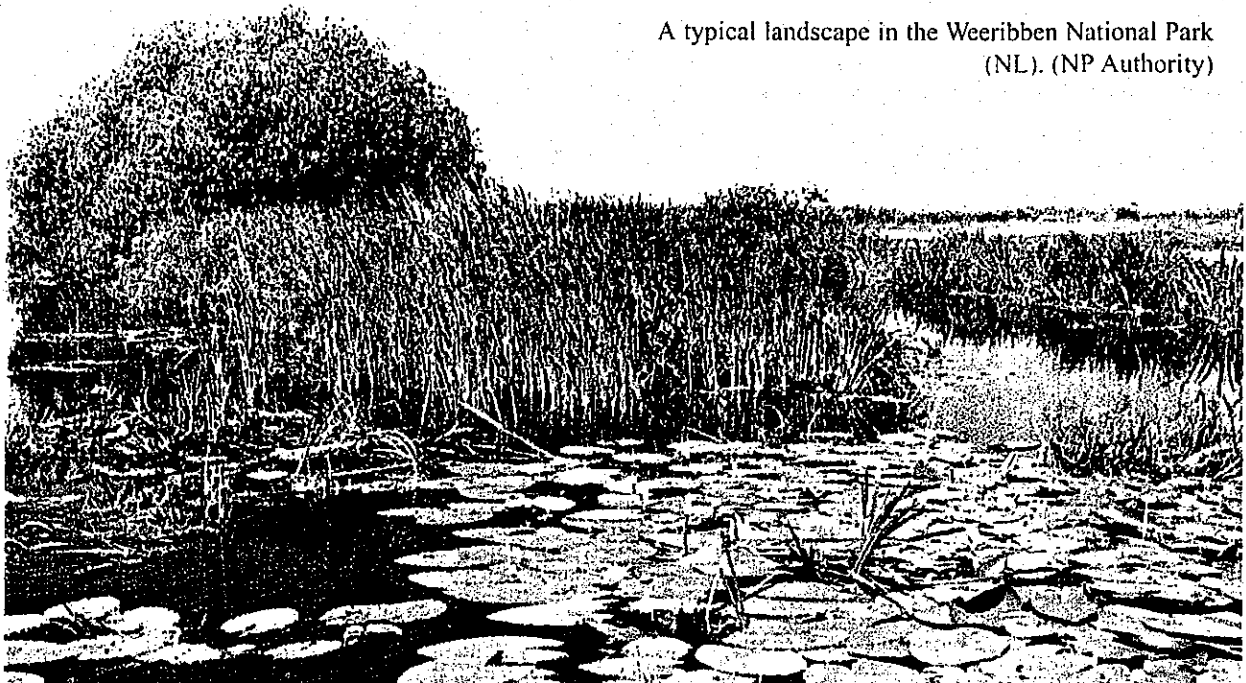
**Main aim of protection** is to maintain and develop the quality of the different habitats.

### **In situ management**

In Zone A, consisting of carr woodland and representing 25% of the area, no habitat management is practised and wildlife management is used only as a tool for species protection. Zone B, consisting of reedbeds and hay meadows and representing 55% of the area, is permanently managed for the preservation of these habitats. Here no utilisation other than reedbed exploitation and grazing - tools for habitat management - takes place. Restoration of broads is carried out in Zone C. Almost the whole area belongs to the state. Fundamental research and applied research for management purposes is carried out in the park. Terrestrial access is limited to nature trails and cycle paths. Waterways are freely accessible for rowing and electric boats, but they may dock only at specially designated places.

In the Weerribben National Park there is a visitor centre and nature and interpretative trails, and education programmes take place.

A typical landscape in the Weerribben National Park  
(NL). (NP Authority)



*Typical Category V protected areas:*



## **Yorkshire Dales National Park (United Kingdom)**

### **Designation and legal basis of management**

The National Park was founded in 1954. The valid acts of protection are the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) and the Environment Act (1995), both Acts of Parliament.

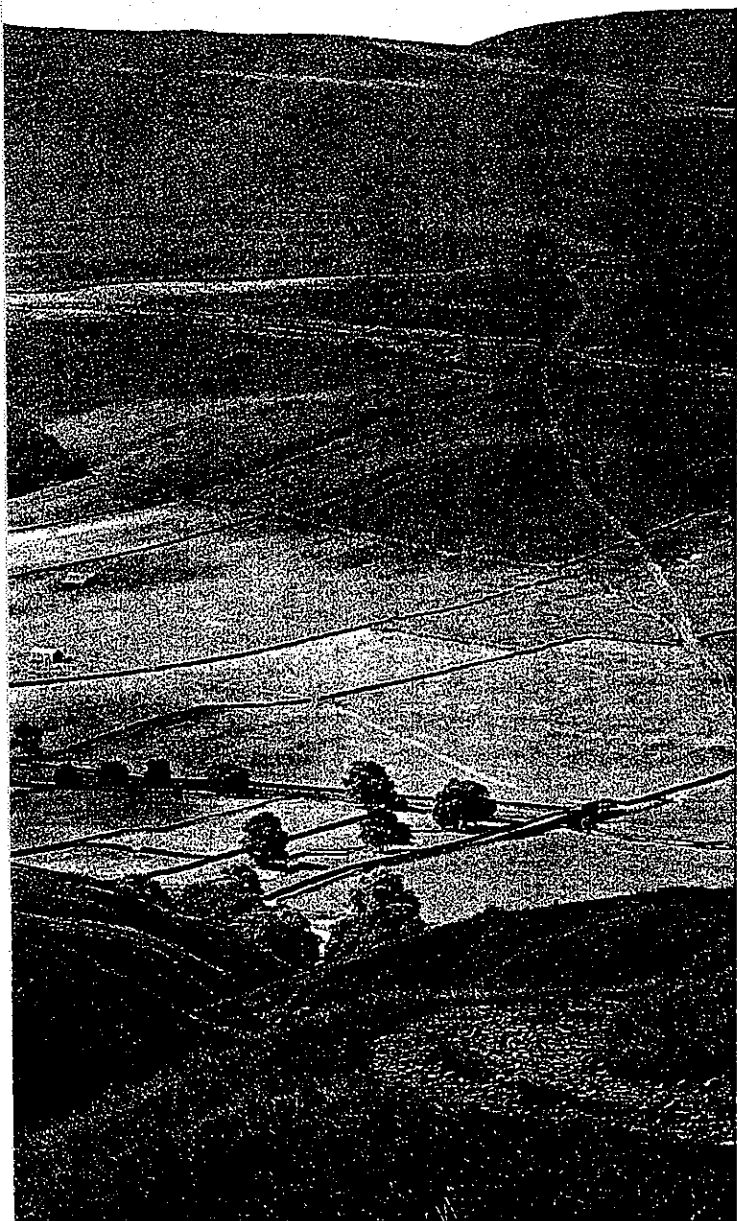
The Yorkshire Dales Local Plan and Mineral and Waste Local Plan control development and land-use. A new Management Plan is under preparation, due for publication in March 2000. The managing park authority is the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Yorebridge House, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 3EE).

Size of the area is 176 900 ha.

### **Essential natural, cultural and/or social values of the area**

The Yorkshire Dales has outstanding scenery, a diversity of wildlife habitats, a rich cultural heritage and an unspoilt quality. Following the CORINE classification, the main habitat types are wetlands/marshes (0.2%), rough grass/scrub/brackens (49.9%), broad-leaved, coniferous woodlands (1.4%), rocks - lime-

Yorkshire Dales National Park (UK), the British national parks are extraordinary good examples for category V protected areas. (YDNP Administration)



stone pavement (2.2%), agricultural/man-made habitats (28.3%) and upland heaths/blanket bogs (15.1%). There are over 20 main dales (valleys), differing greatly from each other in character and atmosphere. About 18 000 people live in the scattered farms, villages and small market towns of the park. People have lived in the area for over 10 000 years and have left their mark on the landscape in the form of ancient settlement sites, disused mineral workings and the patchwork of dry-stone walls and barns so typical of the Dales. Early farmers cleared the woodland and developed the fields. Sheep on the fells, hay meadows in the valley bottoms: this has long been the way of life for Dales farmers, resulting in a landscape cherished by residents and visitors alike.

**Main aim of protection** is the conservation of heritage, both natural and cultural, wildlife, landscape character and scenic beauty, provision of access and recreation opportunities, and education. Aims to foster economic and community development which respects and harmonises with the environmental and cultural identity of the national park and reflects the principles of sustainable development.

### **In situ management**

In the Yorkshire Dales National Park utilisation of resources comprises of mining/quarrying, agriculture, sport/commercial hunting/fishing, forestry, grazing and water management. Across 33.3% of the area there is habitat management for conservation purposes, in half of this area management is oriented towards habitat restoration. Activities for protection of internationally and nationally endangered species take place across a large part of the area. Fundamental research and applied research for management purposes are carried out in the area. Access is in principal free, but limited via a network of over 2 100 km of public rights of way and permissive paths. There are two small open access areas. Tourism is very important for the local economy, but visitor pressure threatens fragile habitats and farming activities, and erodes paths. Traffic and tourism-related development remain a threat to the rural character. The local economy is increasingly dependent on tourism, causing loss of local services and of local housing needs, thus threatening economic viability of area.

In the Yorkshire Dales National Park there are numerous visitor centres, nature and interpretative trails. Numerous education programmes and activities are organised.



### **Designation and legal basis of management**

The Regional Park was founded on 22.12.1989 by a decree of the Ministry of Environment.

The new 10 year approbation of the park's management plan was in 1998. The managing park authority is the Administration of Parc Naturel Regional de la Brenne (Maison du Parc, Hameau du Bouchet, F-36300 Rosnay / Indre).

Size of the area is 166 000 ha including 9 000 ha of lakes.

### **Essential natural, cultural and/or social values of the area**

Area typically represents the natural region of la Brenne, composed of a mosaic of habitats: poor meadows, forests, scrubs, ponds, heath. Man-made ponds exist here since the 12th century, they are used for sustainable fish-farming. Following the CORINE classification main habitat types are wetlands/marshes/bogs (5%), grass/scrub (49%), woodlands (25%), agricultural/man-made habitat (20%) and 0,5% of others. The area has a high biological value because of existence of 1400 ponds (9000 ha), with a very rich biodiversity including numerous rare aquatic birds, insects and plants, pond tortoises (*Emys orbicularis*), and of poor meadows managed by extensive grazing permitting the growth of numerous orchids and the existence of a diversity of insect species.

**Main aim of protection** is preservation of international wetlands under Ramsar convention, and of an Important Bird Area (48.000 ha). 58.000 ha of the Grande Brenne is proposed by the government for a NATURA 2000 site.

### **In situ management**

Habitat management (permanent or restoration) for conservation purposes is done on 11% of the area. Species protection is also done through habitat management. Main forms of utilisation are grazing, forestry, agriculture, water management, fish farming and hunting. Habitat and species management for conservation purposes is done with support of the grants of the European Union. Fundamental research and applied research for management purposes is carried out in the park.

Access is free on public trails, on private properties representing 99% of the territory by permission only. Tourism and recreation is not in conflict with main aims of protection. In the Parc Regional Naturel de la Brenne there are visitor centres, nature and interpretative trails. Numerous education programmes and activities are organised.

# Trebon Protected Landscape Area (Czech Republic)

## Designation and legal basis of management

Trebon Basin Biosphere Reserve was founded on 01.03.1977, "Trebonsko" Protected Landscape Area was founded on 15.11.1979 by a Decree of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Socialist Republic No. 22737/1979. Management is based on the Czech Nature and Landscape Conservation Act No. 114/1992 of 12.2.1992 and follow-up regulations. The Management Plan was approved by the Czech Ministry of Environment on 18.7.1996. The managing park authority is the Administration of the Protected Landscape Area and Biosphere Reserve Trebon (Valy 121, CZ-37901 Trebon).

Size of the area is 70 000 ha.

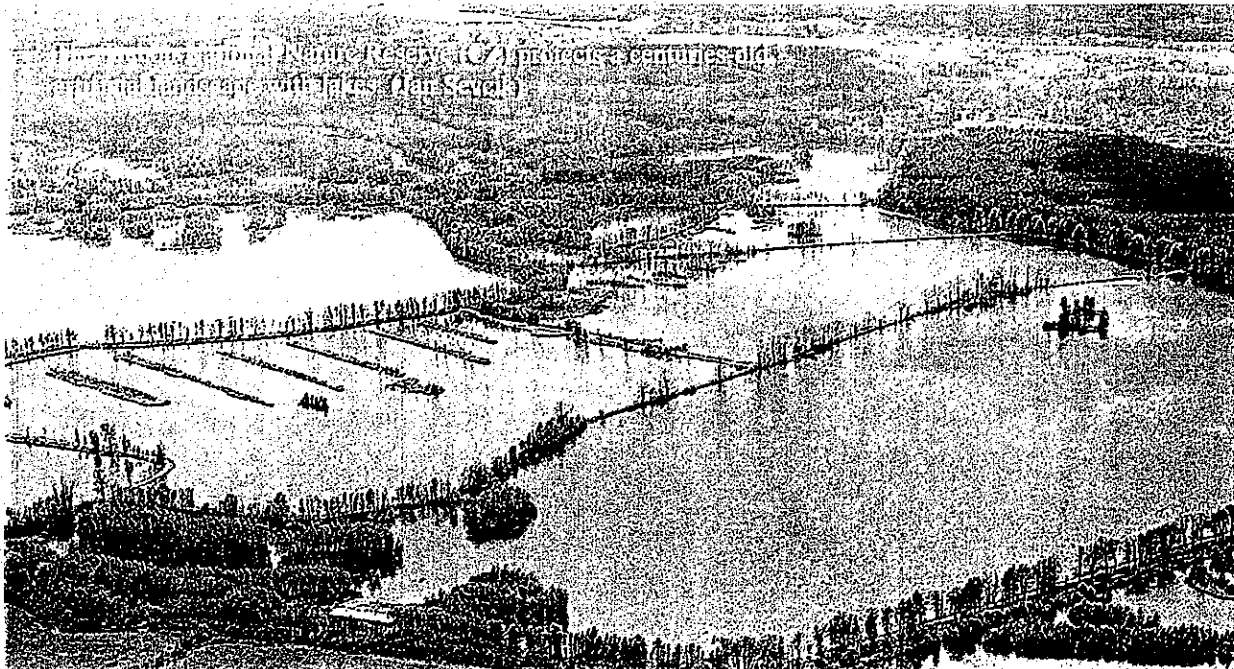
## Essential natural, cultural and/or social values of the area

Initially a forested wetland area, historically (12th - 16th century) developed to a semi-natural harmonious landscape. Located in South Bohemia adjacent to the Austrian border. A unique mosaic of broad-leaf and coniferous forests, over 500 man-made fishponds, littoral zones, both natural streams and man-made canals, dikes, flood plain wetlands, transitional peat-bogs, fields, wet and mesic meadows and small settlements, that present a great diversity of plant and animal species. The main (CORINE) habitat types are wetland/marsh/bog (10%), grass/scrub (5%), woodland (45%), agricultural/man-made habitat (30%) and fishponds (10%).

**Main aim of protection** is the preservation of the historically developed, harmonious semi-natural landscape with valuable natural ecosystems and richness of fauna and flora. A traditional model of successful interaction between man and nature (MAB ideal). Core area of the Czech otter (*Lutra lutra*) population. Preservation of two vast wetlands of international importance (Trebon peatlands, Trebon Fishponds) and a European Important Bird Area.

## In situ management

Habitat management for conservation purposes is carried out across 8% of the area. Special attention is paid to the conservation of peatbogs and fens, fishponds, littoral and floodplain wetlands, floodplain forests, wet meadows and other valuable natural or semi-natural forests, that are typical for this type of landscape. Wildlife management across 15% of the area is designed to protect species. The main forms of utilisation are forestry, agriculture, fish breeding and hunting. Fundamental research and applied research for management purposes is carried out in the area. Access in the core area is limited or only with special permission, in the buffer zone it is limited to 5 % of area and in the transitional area to 1% of area. In the Trebon Protected Landscape Area there are an information centre, a visitor centre is under preparation, three nature trails exist and two are under preparation, and education programmes take place.



*Typical Category VI protected area:*

# **Hammastunturi Wilderness Reserve**

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## **(Finland)**

### **Designation and legal basis of management**

Founded on 1.2.1991 by the Erämaalaki/Wilderness Act (62/1991) of the Finnish Parliament.

The area has a management plan. The managing authority is Forest and Park Service - Metsähallitus (Ylä-Lapin Luontopalvelut, PL 36, FIN-99 801 Ivalo).

Size of the area is 182 500 ha.

### **Essential natural, cultural and/or social values of the area**

The reserve has a wilderness character with large, unsettled, almost road-less natural areas. In the Ivalojoeki Canyon there are old growths of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and the northern limit of Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) is found here. The Aapa mire area is a landscape with a variety of fells, forests, bogs, mires and freshwater. Saami people utilise this area, preserving their old hunting and fishing tradition, reindeer herding (both Saami and Finnish reindeer herders) and gold washing. The area has historical places and buildings and is a popular recreation area for hiking and canoeing. According to CORINE classification, the main habitat types are wetlands/marshes/bogs (24%), woodlands (60%), rock/alpine (14%) and freshwater (2%).

**Main aim of protection** is maintenance of wilderness character.

### **In situ management**

There is no habitat management in Zone A (39% of the total area) or Zone B (50% of the total area), and in Zone C (11% of the total area) it is limited to nature oriented forestry. Wildlife management across the whole surface is limited to species protection and density control through hunting. Utilisation is limited to gold washing, hunting, fishing and grazing, and in Zone C additionally to forestry. Fundamental and applied, management oriented research take place in the protected area.

Access is free, nature and interpretative trails exist.

