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| https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/fa/IUCN_logo.svg/1074px-IUCN_logo.svg.png | **THE IUCN GREEN LIST OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS:**  **GLOBAL STANDARD** | | |
| Version | | | 1.0 |
| Source language | | | **English**. Official translations available. |
| Responsible Unit | | | **IUCN GLOBAL PROTECTED AREAS PROGRAMME (GPAP)** |
| Developed by | | | **IUCN GREEN LIST OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS: STANDARDS WORKING GROUP** |
| Subject (Taxonomy) | | | Protected Areas; Conservation Outcomes; Voluntary Sustainability Standard; Protected Planet; Management Effectiveness; Assurance; Aichi Target 11. |
| Date approved | | | Approval for use in GLPCA Development Phase 1st September 2016 |
| Approved by | | | Approval for use in GLPCA Development Phase granted by Chair, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas |
| Applicable to | | | IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas (GLPCA) |
| Objective | | | ***To encourage protected and conserved areas to measure, improve and maintain their performance through globally consistent criteria that benchmark good governance, sound design and planning, effective management, and successful conservation outcomes*** |
| Is part of | | | IUCN GREEN LIST OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS (GLPCA) PROGRAMME |
| Conforms to | | | ISEAL Code of Best Practice for Sustainability Standards  IUCN GLPCA Manual (Standards Development Procedure)  IUCN Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) |
| Related Documents | | | IUCN GLPCA Manual |
| Distribution | | | IUCN COMPASS; IUCN Union Portal and IUCN website  ‘Protected Planet’ portal (UNEP-WCMC) |
| DOCUMENT HISTORY | | | **CURRENT VERSION 1.0** |
| **Version** | | **Release date** | **Summary of changes** |
| Version 0.1 | | Released in September 2012 | Presented for feedback at IUCN World Conservation Congress 2012, Jeju, Korea. |
| Version 0.2 | | Released in June 2014 | Major adjustments to align with ISEAL Alliance Credibility Principles Expert Workshop (June 2014) to refine content. Version adopted for 2014 Pilot Phase. |
| Version 0.3 | | Released in September 2015 | Global Consultation version, including minor adjustments based on feedback from evaluation of Pilot Phase (2014) and World Parks Congress feedback (Nov. 2014). Expert evaluation of comments received on this version form basis for adjustments in current revision 1.0 |

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### INTRODUCTION

Protected areas are a universal approach to nature conservation, present in all countries, for both land and sea. Conserving nature is essential for the future of humanity by securing the persistence of natural diversity that supports human life. Well-governed, well-designed and well-managed protected areas are our most effective tool for conserving nature, and provide a wide range of ecological, socio-economic, cultural and spiritual benefits.

The IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas (GLPCA) Programme aims to encourage, achieve, and promote effective, equitable and successful protected areas in all partner countries and jurisdictions. The overarching objective of the GLPCA programme is to **increase the number of protected and conserved areas that are effectively and equitably managed and deliver conservation outcomes.** This high-level objective will be reached through a set of underlying objectives:

1. To ensure that the GLPCA Standard provides a suitable measure for strengthening conservation outcomes and improving equitable and effective management of protected and conserved areas
2. To position the GLPCA programme as an accessible channel for conservation capacity-development for protected and conserved areas
3. To promote collaboration and investment in implementing effective and equitable conservation management in protected and conserved areas committed to the GLPCA Standard.

At the heart of the IUCN GLPCA Programme is the Global Standard. It describes a set of COMPONENTS, CRITERIA AND INDICATORS for successful conservation in protected areas and thereby provides an international benchmark for quality that motivates improved performance and achievement of conservation objectives. By committing to meet this standard, site managers seek to demonstrate and maintain performance and deliver real nature conservation results. The objective of the Global Standard is:

***To encourage protected and conserved areas to measure, improve and maintain their performance through globally consistent criteria that benchmark good governance, sound design and planning, effective management, and successful conservation outcomes.***

### THE IUCN GLPCA DEVELOPMENT PHASE 2016 to 2018

IUCN began to shape the concept for a Green List of Protected Areas in 2008. In 2012 an IUCN Resolution (WCC 2012-Res-041-EN) called for the development of objective criteria for ‘Green Listing’. The IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and IUCN’s Global Protected Areas Programme accordingly convened a global development and consultation process to create and test a new Standard for protected areas. A pilot phase in eight jurisdictions was undertaken with results presented at the IUCN World Parks Congress, Sydney, November 2014. A total of 25 protected and conserved areas received a ‘Green List’ certificate for their achievements.

In the current Development Phase, 2015 to 2019, these sites must demonstrate how they have maintained performance and meet the revised Standard. In addition, a new set of protected and conserved areas from a partnership of at least 20 jurisdictions will engage in the GLPCA Programme.

### INTERNATIONAL CODE FOR SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

IUCN is committed to align the development of the GLPCA Programme to the ISEAL Code of Best Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards <http://www.isealalliance.org/our-work/defining-credibility/codes-of-good-practice/standard-setting-code>. The IUCN GLPCA is seeking to comply with ISEAL requirements by 2019.

This Version 1.0 of the Standard is informed by the lessons learned from the evaluation of the pilot phase in 2014. Following ISEAL guidelines, a global public consultation opportunity provided valuable stakeholder feedback in 2015. The Standard is supported by an Assurance Procedure and rules, as documented in the accompanying IUCN GLPCA User Manual. The GLPCA User Manual describes the objectives of the overall IUCN GLPCA Programme. It provides the framework for implementation of the Programme globally, and on a jurisdictional basis.

### THE IUCN GLPCA GLOBAL STANDARD

The IUCN GLPCA Global Standard is organized into four components of successful nature conservation in protected and conserved areas. The baseline components concern:

* **Good Governance**
* **Sound Design and Planning;** and
* **Effective Management**

Together, these support the component on **Successful Conservation Outcomes** attesting to the successful achievement of an area’s goals and objectives. Each component has a set of criteria and each criterion has a set of indicators to measure achievement.

### GLOBALLY CONSISTENT; LOCALLY RELEVANT

The Criteria are globally consistent requirements that collectively describe the efforts needed to fully achieve the Global Standard. A ‘Green List’ site is one that is currently evaluated to achieve *all* criteria, across all four components. The Global Standard is implemented through a jurisdictional approach, tailored to each country or region where the GLPCA is adopted. The Programme allows for flexibility for each jurisdiction to implement the Global Standard. For each criterion in the Global Standard, a set of Generic Indicators and associated Means of Verification is maintained by IUCN. These generic indicators may be adapted to the context of each participating jurisdiction, to allow for reflection of regional and local characteristics and circumstances in which protected and conserved areas operate. The guidance for this process is detailed in the accompanying IUCN GLPCA User Manual.

### ASSURANCE AND EVALUATION

The IUCN GLPCA Programme assures that ‘Green List’ sites are effectively and equitably managed, and achieving successful conservation of their values. A global partnership with Accreditation Services International (ASI) provides the GLPCA with a proven Oversight Body tasked with assurance of the GLPCA Programme. The assurance mechanisms and procedures in place ensure independence and credibility of decision-making. Participation by individual protected areas, conserved areas, and their governing agencies is entirely voluntary, through commitment to promote continuous improvement through the GLPCA.

### ‘GREEN LIST’ STATUS FOR PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

Sites wishing to achieve ‘Green List’ status must demonstrate, and then maintain, successful implementation of the IUCN GLPCA Global Standard. This is evaluated in three Phases:

1. ***Application Phase:***

The first step is a voluntary commitment to the GLPCA Programme. This **commitment** will include the area on a global register and begin the application process. This ensures that the site meets the basic requirements for consideration. Sites then undergo an initial assessment against the Global Standard and adapted Indicators for their jurisdiction. Once the site has demonstrated that it has the ingredients for success, and that there is broad-based support for their achievement of the ‘Green List’, it is granted **Candidate** status. It is during the Application phase that site managers will learn of areas that may need to be strengthened before they can be further considered for the Green List.

1. ***Candidate Phase:***

Once admitted as a candidate, the site begins a second phase of assessment (‘**candidate phase**’) against the full set of GLPCA Standard criteria, providing evidence against all indicators and addressing any identified shortcomings over a period of time. This candidate phase may take months or even several years depending on the issues that have been identified. Once complete, candidate sites are put forward for **nomination** to the Green List. The **nomination** process involves the preparation and submission of a complete dossier by a candidate site addressing all Global Standard criteria. It will be evaluated by the Expert Assessment Group (EAGL) for the local jurisdiction, with the process verified by an independent Reviewer. Based on this recommendation, the final decision will be approved, or referred, by the IUCN GLPCA independent global panel of senior experts.

***3. Green List Phase:***

Once a Candidate site is awarded ‘Green List’ status, the management and representatives for the area will be provided a **certificate**. The area will be afforded the right to use the IUCN GLPCA mark and logo, and will be recognised and promoted by IUCN as a global exemplar in conservation achievement. Additionally, all Candidate and ‘Green List’ sites will be profiled on the Protected Planet portal of the UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre’s (WCMC) World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). After a site achieves Green List Status, the IUCN GLPCA Programme focuses on maintaining that status. A mid-term rapid review of performance is carried out for all ‘Green List’ sites. Additionally, throughout the period, the IUCN GLPCA Programme factors and filters stakeholder views and public opinion into the area’s ongoing performance. The IUCN GLPCA Manual also deals with procedures for grievances from any parties involved. In the final year of the current Green List award, the area management must begin a renewal process to justify continued success and performance against the Standard criteria, and thereby renew their Green List status for a further period, usually 5 years. If for any reason new challenges affect the area’s achievement of the Standard, it will be considered again as a Candidate, and encouraged to develop a specific plan of action to regain Green List status through renewed nomination. Users of this Standard should contact the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme for information on the process of achieving the Green List Standard ([glpca@iucn.org](mailto:glpca@iucn.org)).

*Note: Under each of the 4 Components, there are Criteria and Indicators. Indicators in* ***Blue text*** *must be completed during the Application phase. Indicators in* ***Green text*** *must be completed during the Candidate and Green List phases.*

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| **Component 1: GOOD GOVERNANCE** | |
| **Green List sites demonstrate equitable and effective governance** | |
| * 1. **GUARANTEE LEGITIMACY AND VOICE** | There are clearly defined, legitimate and functional governance arrangements, in which the interests of civil society, rights-holders and stakeholders are fairly represented and addressed, including those relating to the establishment or designation of the site. |
| * 1. **ACHIEVE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY** | Governance arrangements and decision-making processes are transparent and appropriately communicated, and responsibilities for implementation are clear, including a readily accessible process to identify, hear and resolve complaints, disputes, or grievances. |
| * 1. **ENABLE GOVERNANCE VITALITY AND CAPACITY TO RESPOND ADAPTIVELY** | Planning and management draws on the best available knowledge of the social and ecological context of the area, using an adaptive management framework that anticipates, learns from and responds to change in decision-making. |
| **Component 2: SOUND DESIGN AND PLANNING** | |
| **Green List sites have clear, long-term conservation goals and objectives, based on a sound understanding of their natural, cultural and social-economic context** | |
| * 1. **IDENTIFY MAJOR SITE VALUES** | 2.1A The sites major nature values are identified  2.1B The site’s major ecosystem service values are identified  2.1C The site’s major cultural values are identified |
| * 1. **DESIGN FOR LONG-TERM CONSERVATION OF MAJOR SITE VALUES** | The characteristics of the area support long-term maintenance of the major site values |
| **2.3 UNDERSTAND THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO MAJOR SITE VALUES** | Threats and challenges to major site values have been described in sufficient detail to support effective planning and management |
| **2.4 UNDERSTAND THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT** | The social and economic context of the area including the positive and negative social and economic impacts of management is understood and reflected in site management goals and objectives |
| **Component 3: EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT** | |
| **Green List sites are managed effectively** | |
| **3.1 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY** | The site has a long-term strategy that provides a clear explanation of the overall goals and objectives of management (explicitly including the conservation of the area’s major values and achievement of its social and economic goals and objectives). This is reflected in an up-to-date management plan (or its functional equivalent) |
| ***3.1A PROVIDE CLEAR AND APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS*** | The strategies and actions specified in plans, policies and procedures are appropriate and sufficient to achieve the planned goals and objectives for the area. |
| ***3.1B DEMONSTRATE ADEQUATE CAPACITY TO MANAGE EFFECTIVELY*** | The key strategies and associated activities to achieve goals and objectives in the long-term are supported by adequate financial and human resources; adequate staff competency, capacity development and training; appropriate access to equipment and adequate infrastructure; and measures are in place to deal with critical shortfalls. Management can clearly demonstrate that ecological attributes and processes are being managed to maintain the area’s major natural values and associated ecosystem services. |
| **3.2 MANAGE ECOLOGICAL CONDITION** | Management can clearly demonstrate that ecological attributes and processes are being managed to maintain the area’s major natural values and associated ecosystem services |
| **3.3 MANAGE WITHIN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT OF THE AREA** | Management can clearly demonstrate that:   * Rights-holders and stakeholders are recognized and engaged effectively by management, and their interests are fairly and fully considered; * The social and economic benefits of the area are recognized, promoted and are being maintained, OR, where such maintenance is incompatible with the maintenance of the area’s natural values, any restrictions are designed and implemented in consultation with, and preferably following the free, prior and informed consent of right-holders and stakeholders. |
| **3.4 MANAGE THREATS** | Threats are being actively and effectively responded to, so that their impact is not compromising the maintenance of major site values or the achievement of the area’s goals and objectives. |
| **3.5 EFFECTIVELY AND FAIRLY ENFORCE LAWS AND REGULATIONS** | Relevant laws, regulations and restrictions are fairly and effectively applied in all aspects of the protected area management and operations |
| **3.6 MANAGE ACCESS, RESOURCE USE AND VISITATION** | |
| ***3.6A MANAGE APPROVED ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE AREA*** | When permitted, activities within the area that involve direct access to resources are compatible with and support the achievement of the area’s conservation goals and objectives, meet the needs of users, and are properly regulated. |
| ***3.6B MANAGE FOR VISITORS AND TOURISM*** | When permitted, tourism and visitor management are compatible with and support the achievement of the area´s conservation goals and objectives |
| **3.7** **MEASURE SUCCESS** | Monitoring, evaluation and learning provide an objective basis for determining measures of success. Monitoring and assessment programs should be capable of providing data on:   * Whether each of the area’s major values is being successfully protected; * Level and intensity of threats; and * Achievement of management goals and objectives. |
| **Component 4: SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION OUTCOMES** | |
| **Green List sites demonstrate successful long-term conservation of major natural values, and associated cultural and ecosystem service values; as well as the achievement of social and economic goals and objectives** | |
| **4.1: DEMONSTRATE CONSERVATION OF MAJOR NATURAL VALUES** | The area is meeting or exceeding the performance thresholds for nature conservation, consistent with its IUCN protected area management category. |
| **4.2: DEMONSTRATE CONSERVATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES** | The area is maintaining and providing the major ecosystem service values. |
| **4.3 DEMONSTRATE CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL VALUES** | The area is maintaining and providing for the persistence of major cultural values. |