

# Standards, the current state of affairs: Our work across sectors

Proteus annual meeting, Stavanger 15<sup>th</sup> June

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# Goal of Session:

To share the latest findings of our work looking at the biodiversity criteria adopted in environmental safeguards.

# Contents

- Standards and Certification schemes  
– a key mechanism for safeguarding biodiversity?
- How do standards treat biodiversity?
- Findings and Recommendations

# Standards - a key mechanism for safeguarding biodiversity?

- Standards and certification schemes are **widely used to influence** environmental and social performance
- They are **adopted across many sectors** by businesses for reasons including access to finance, certification of products, membership of trade bodies
- Standards and certification schemes often include **performance requirements on Biodiversity**

# We conducted a study into the way biodiversity is treated in standards

- The purpose of the review was to **generate a clear understanding of the treatment that biodiversity receives in key sectors,**
- **Ensure our data and other products support** those developing and adopting standards
- The output highlighted **commonalities** as well as **differences**
- **Encourage the harmonisation of standards**

# We reviewed 36 standards and certification schemes from 8 sectors

- Agriculture – 12 standards
- Biotrade – 2 standards
- Carbon – 3 standards
- Finance – 5 standards
- Fisheries – 5 standards
- Forestry – 4 standards
- Mining – 2 standards
- Tourism – 3 standards

# We based the review on the Convention on Biological Diversity

## Components of Biodiversity:

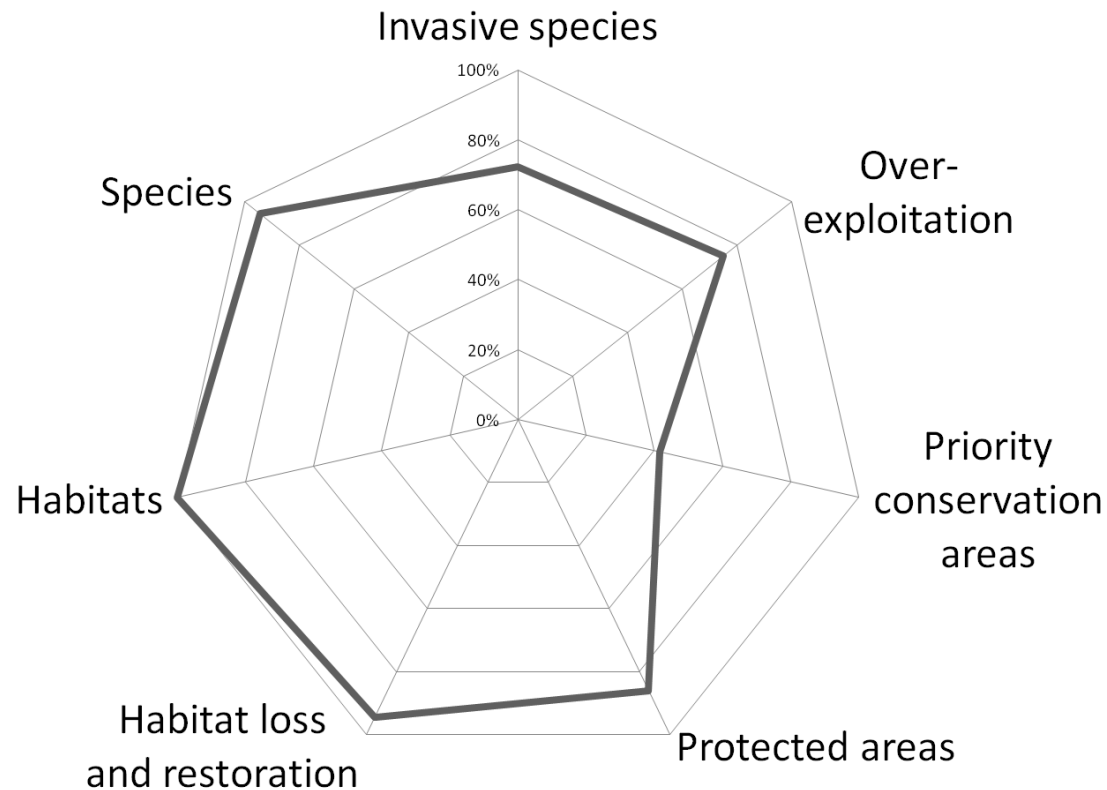
- Habitats
- Species
- Protected Areas
- Priority Conservation Areas

## Threats to biodiversity and responses:

- Habitat loss and restoration
- Invasive Species
- Overexploitation
- Mitigation Hierarchy
- No net loss and Net positive impact

# How do Standards treat biodiversity?

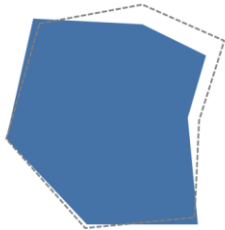
# Habitat and Species are the most frequently included elements



# The individual sectors generally follow a similar pattern

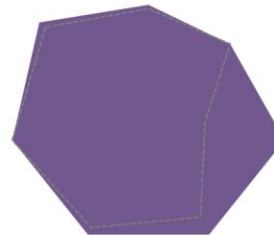
**Agriculture**

N=12



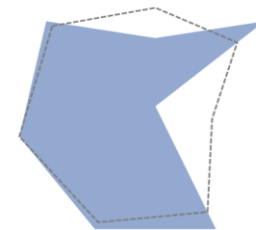
**Forestry**

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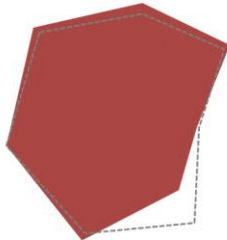
**Biotrade**

N=2



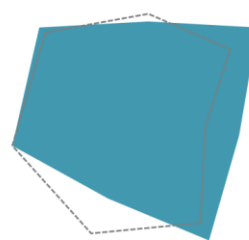
**Fisheries**

N=5



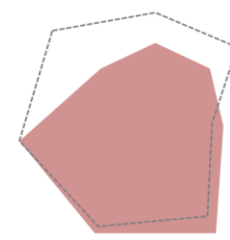
**Tourism**

N=3



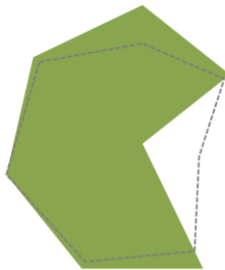
**Mining**

N=2



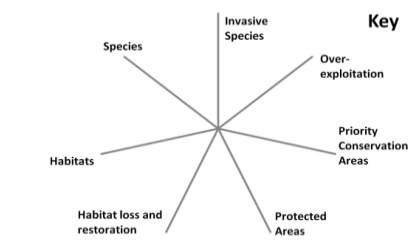
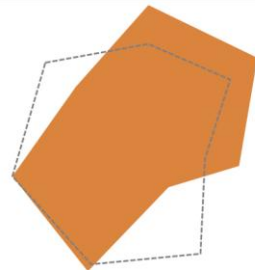
**Finance**

N=5



**Carbon**

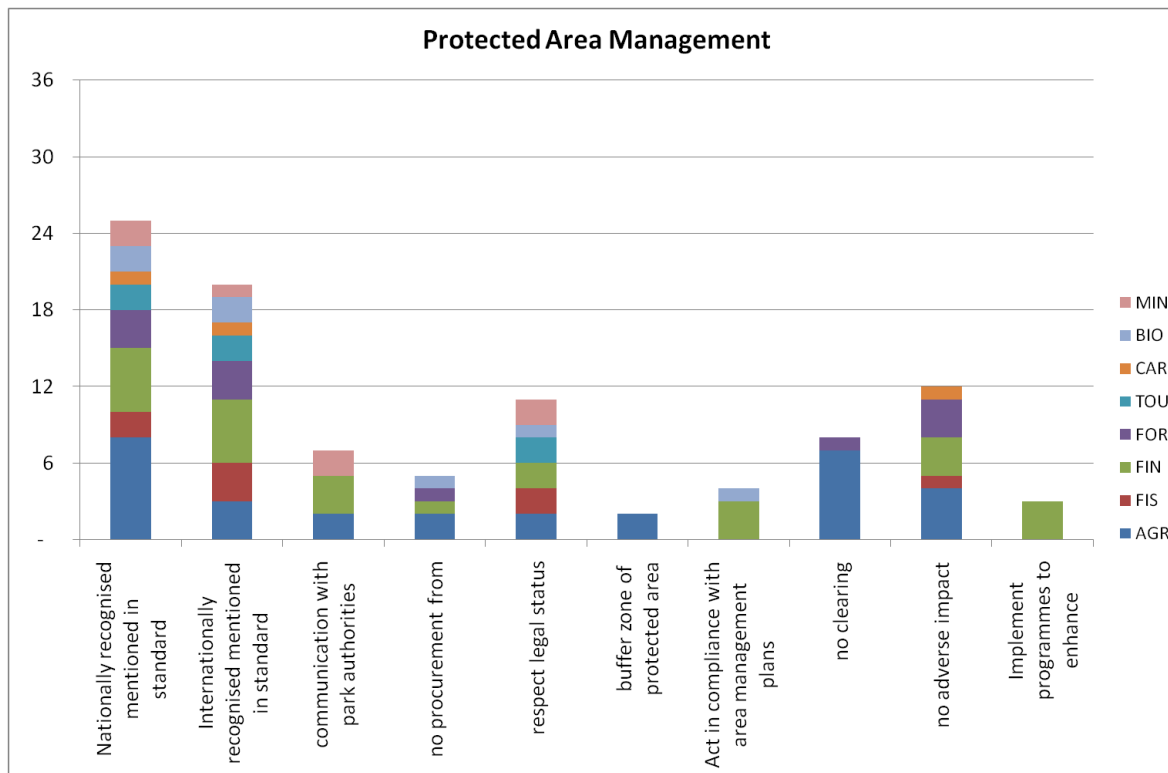
N=3



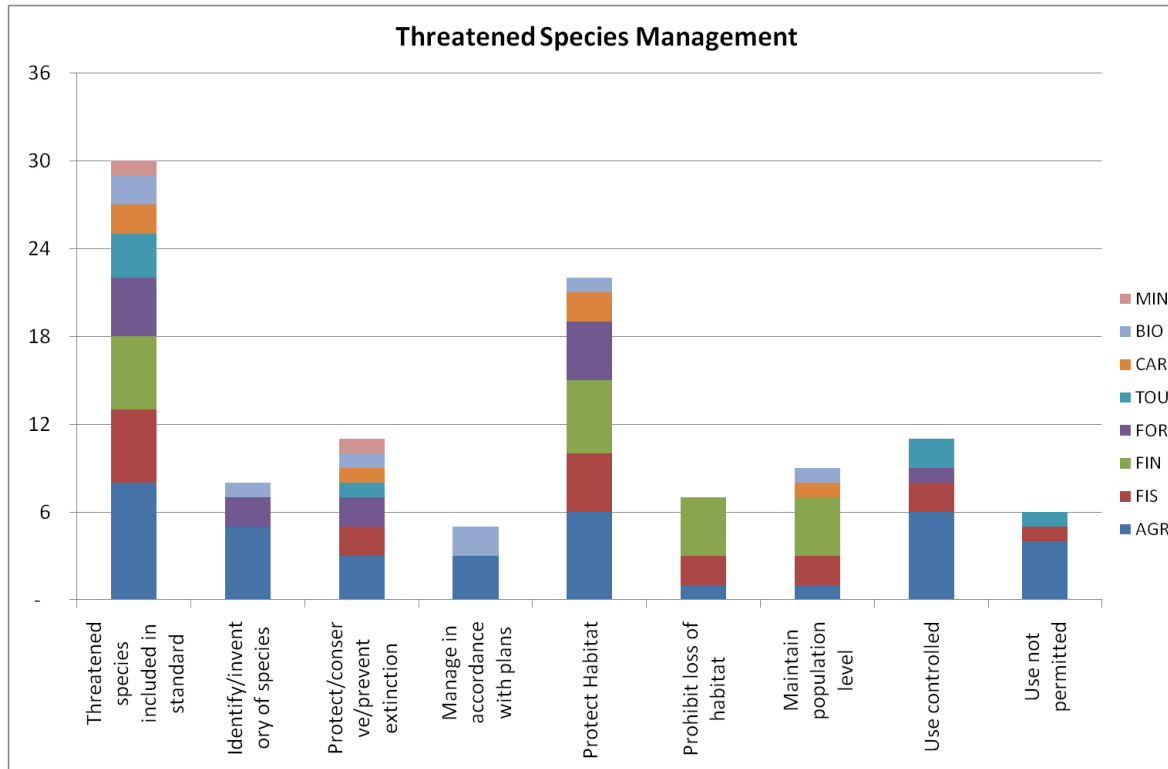
# Despite this similar pattern, different approaches are adopted

- **Language and definitions** used vary greatly
- **Habitats** are given the greatest overall protection – but protection is often **limited to specific types**
- Requirements relating to **species** often focus on **protecting their habitat**
- **Protected areas** get significant coverage, especially when compared to **priority conservation areas**
- The **mitigation hierarchy** is rarely adopted

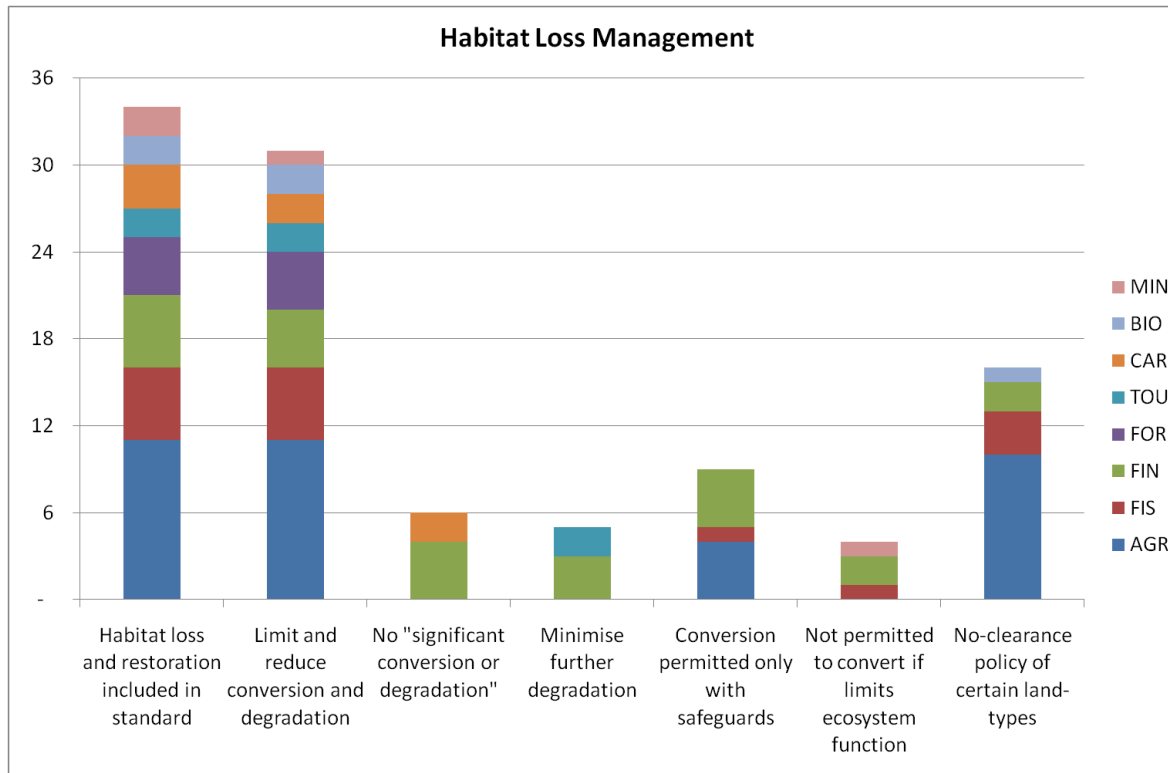
# Approaches vary from many detailed requirements



# Few, high-level requirements



# To a number of specific and strict requirements with caveats



# There is scope to improve and learn across all standards

- Adopt **internationally recognised definitions**
- Avoid **displacement** of threats and include **modified** habitats
- Give **guidance** for operations near **protected areas**
- Include **indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs)**
- Safeguard **Priority Conservation Areas**
- Adopt **mitigation hierarchy** and **no net loss**

# In Summary:

- Standards and Certification remain an **important way of stipulating biodiversity requirements**
- Standards across sectors **have much in common**
- Greater convergence across standards could aid **compatibility and take-up**
- Development of standards can be expected to follow a **common trajectory**
- **UNEP-WCMC's role in supporting standard setting process with data provision and interpretation.**

# Next steps – we'd like to take this review forwards

- Perform the same review looking at Ecosystem Services, especially water
- Understand and share Best practices
- Identify ways to improve use of language and develop a glossary

# Thank you

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