

101 on Protected Areas

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Outline

What is a Protected Area?

Differences in designation types

IUCN Management Categories

Proposed Protected Areas

What is a Protected Area?

What is a Protected Area?

IUCN (Dudley, 2008; 2013)

“A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values”

CBD definition (CBD/Article 2)

“geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives”.

There is agreement that the two definitions are equivalent.

Definitions

Table 1. Explanation of protected area definition

Phrase	Explanation	Examples and further details	
Clearly defined geographical space	Includes land, inland water, marine and coastal areas or a combination of two or more of these. "Space" has three dimensions, e.g., as when the airspace above a protected area is protected from low-flying aircraft or in marine protected areas when a certain water depth is protected or the seabed is protected by conversely subsurface area (e.g., are open for mining). ⁴ A spatially defined area with borders. These borders can physical features that move by management actions (e.g.	Wolong Nature Reserve in China (category Ia, terrestrial); Lake Malawi National Park in Malawi (category II, mainly freshwater); Mosinloo and Oyon Bay Marine Reserve in the Philippines (category Ia, mainly marine) are examples of areas.	
Recognised	Implies that protection can in types declared by people as state, but that such sites should way (in particular through list on Protected Areas – WDPA)		
Dedicated	Implies specific binding over long term, through e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International convention National, provincial and Customary law Covenants of NGOs Private trusts and compo Certification schemes. 		
Managed	Assumes some active steps possibly other) values for which established; note that "means to leave the area untouched strategy.		
Legal or other effective means	Means that protected areas (that is, recognised under state through an international convention managed through other effect such as through recognised community conserved areas established non-government		
	Phrase	Explanation	Examples and further details
	... to achieve	Implies some level of effectiveness – a new element that was not present in the 1994 definition but which has been strongly requested by many protected area managers and others. Although the category will still be determined by objective, management effectiveness will progressively be recorded on the World Database on Protected Areas and over time will become an important contributory criterion in identification and recognition of protected areas.	The Convention on Biological Diversity is asking Parties to carry out management effectiveness assessments.
	Long-term	Protected areas should be managed in perpetuity and not as a short-term or temporary management strategy.	Temporary measures, such as short-term grant-funded agricultural set-asides, rotations in commercial forest management or temporary fishing protection zones are not protected areas as recognised by IUCN.
	Conservation	In the context of this definition conservation refers to the in-situ maintenance of ecosystems and natural and semi-natural habitats and of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species (see definition of agrobiodiversity in the Appendix), in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.	Yellowstone National Park in the United States (category II) has conservation aims focused in particular on maintaining viable populations of bears and wolves but with wider aims of preserving the entire functioning ecosystem.
	Nature	In this context nature always refers to biodiversity, at genetic, species and ecosystem level, and often also refers to geodiversity, landform and broader natural values.	Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park in Uganda (category II) is managed primarily to protect natural mountain forests and particularly the mountain gorilla. The Island of Rum National Nature Reserve in Scotland (category IV) was set up to protect unique geological features.
	Associated ecosystem services	Means here ecosystem services that are related to but do not interfere with the aim of nature conservation. These can include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, and disease; supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and cultural services such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits.	Many protected areas also supply ecosystem services: e.g., Gunung Gede National Park in Java, Indonesia (category II) helps supply fresh water to Jakarta; and the Sundarbans National Park in Bangladesh (category IV) helps to protect the coast against flooding.
	Cultural values	Includes those that do not interfere with the conservation outcome (all cultural values in a protected area should meet this criterion), including in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> those that contribute to conservation outcomes (e.g., traditional management practices on which key species have become reliant); those that are themselves under threat. 	Many protected areas contain sacred sites, e.g., Nyika National Park in Malawi has a sacred pool, waterfall and mountain. Traditional management of forests to supply timber for temples in Japan has resulted in some of the most ancient forests in the country, such as the protected primeval forest outside Nara. The Kaya forests of coastal Kenya are protected both for their biodiversity and their cultural values.



Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories

Edited by Nigel Dudley

Including IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidance on Recognising Protected Areas and Assigning Management Categories and Governance Types by Sue Stolton, Peter Stadle and Nigel Dudley



Developing capacity for a protected planet

Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 21



They come in all shapes and sizes!

The screenshot shows the NewScientist Environment website. The main article is titled "Coral Sea paradise is world's largest protected area" and is dated 07 May 2014. The article text describes the newly created Natural Park of the Coral Sea, a region of islands and reefs covering 95 per cent of the territory, which is 3000 kilometres west of Australia. At 1.3 million square kilometres, it is three times the size of Germany. The park is home to 48 species of shark and 25 species of marine mammal. It includes the world's largest lagoon and a coral reef second in size only to the Great Barrier Reef. The islands support 250,000 people, who rely on hauls of up to 3000 tonnes of fish a year. Management of the park will include a programme to harvest the fish sustainably and with minimal harm to other biodiversity. The article includes social media sharing buttons for Facebook (26 likes), Twitter (17 tweets), and Google+ (20 +1s), as well as a share button (38 shares). A photograph of a tropical coastline with a lagoon and a person on a cliff is visible on the right side of the article.

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Coral Sea paradise is world's largest protected area

› 07 May 2014
› Magazine issue 2968. [Subscribe and save](#)

IF UNDISTURBED natural beauty is your bag, it's time you headed to New Caledonia. The group of islands in the Pacific is a French territory that now boasts the title of the world's largest protected area.

The newly created Natural Park of the Coral Sea is a region of islands and reefs covering 95 per cent of the territory, which is 3000 kilometres west of Australia. At 1.3 million square kilometres, it is three times the size of Germany.

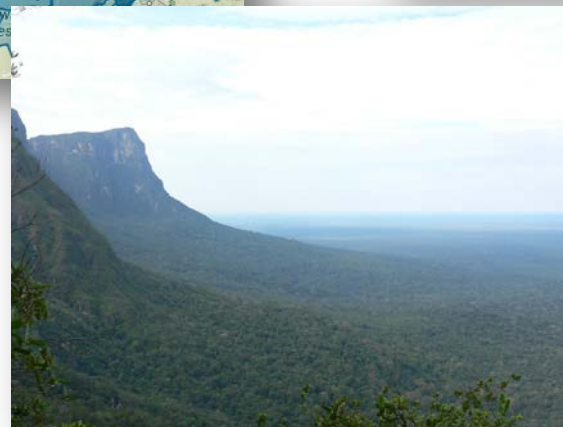
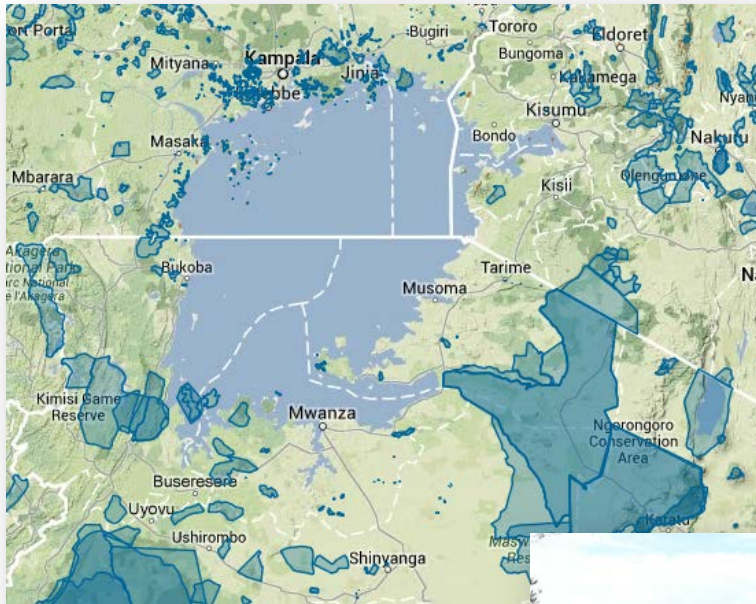
The park is home to 48 species of shark and 25 species of marine mammal. It includes the world's largest lagoon and a coral reef second in size only to the Great Barrier Reef.

The islands support 250,000 people, who rely on hauls of up to 3000 tonnes of fish a year. Management of the park will include a programme to harvest the fish sustainably and with minimal harm to other biodiversity.

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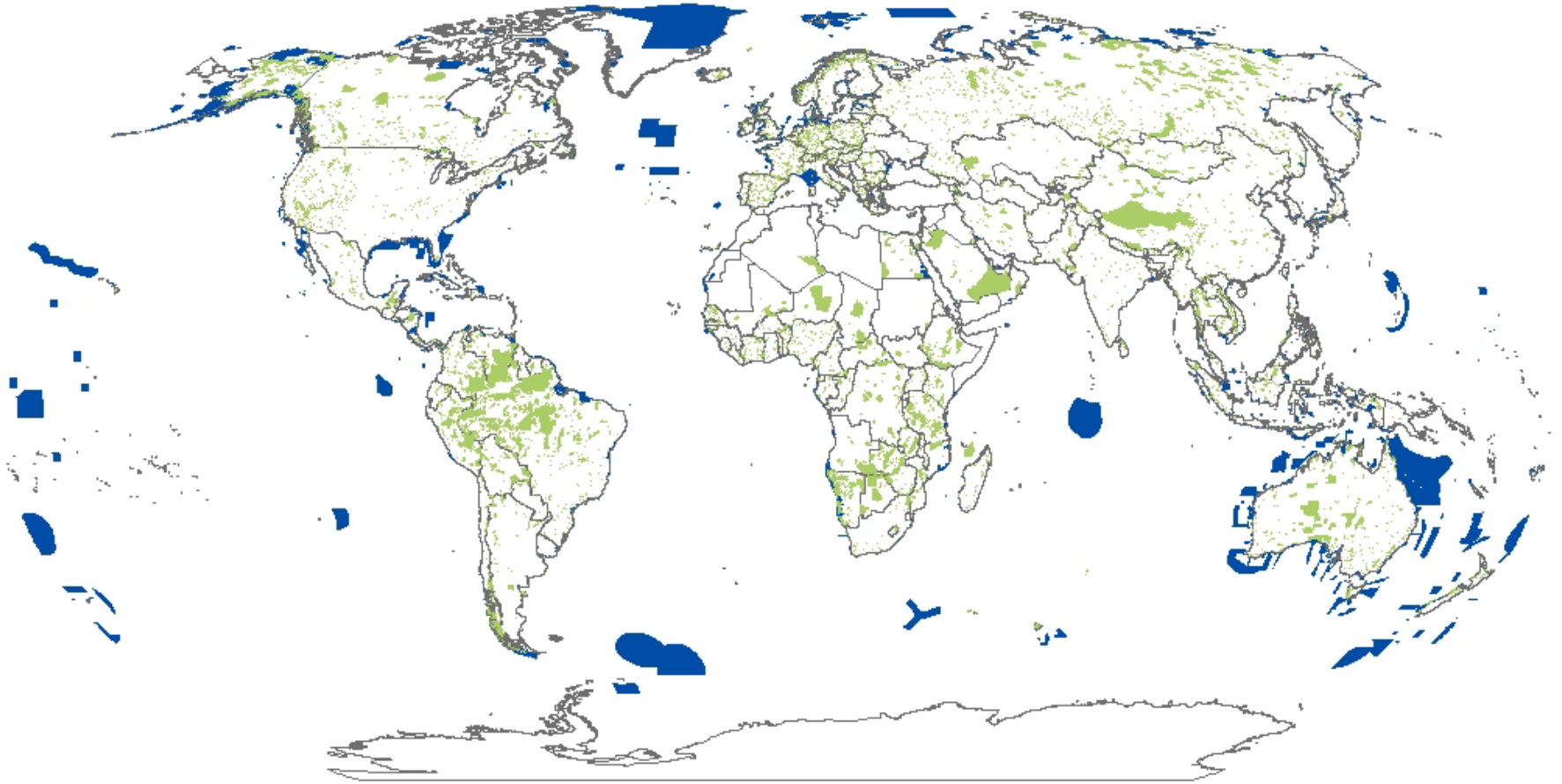
They come in all shapes and sizes!



They come in all shapes and sizes!

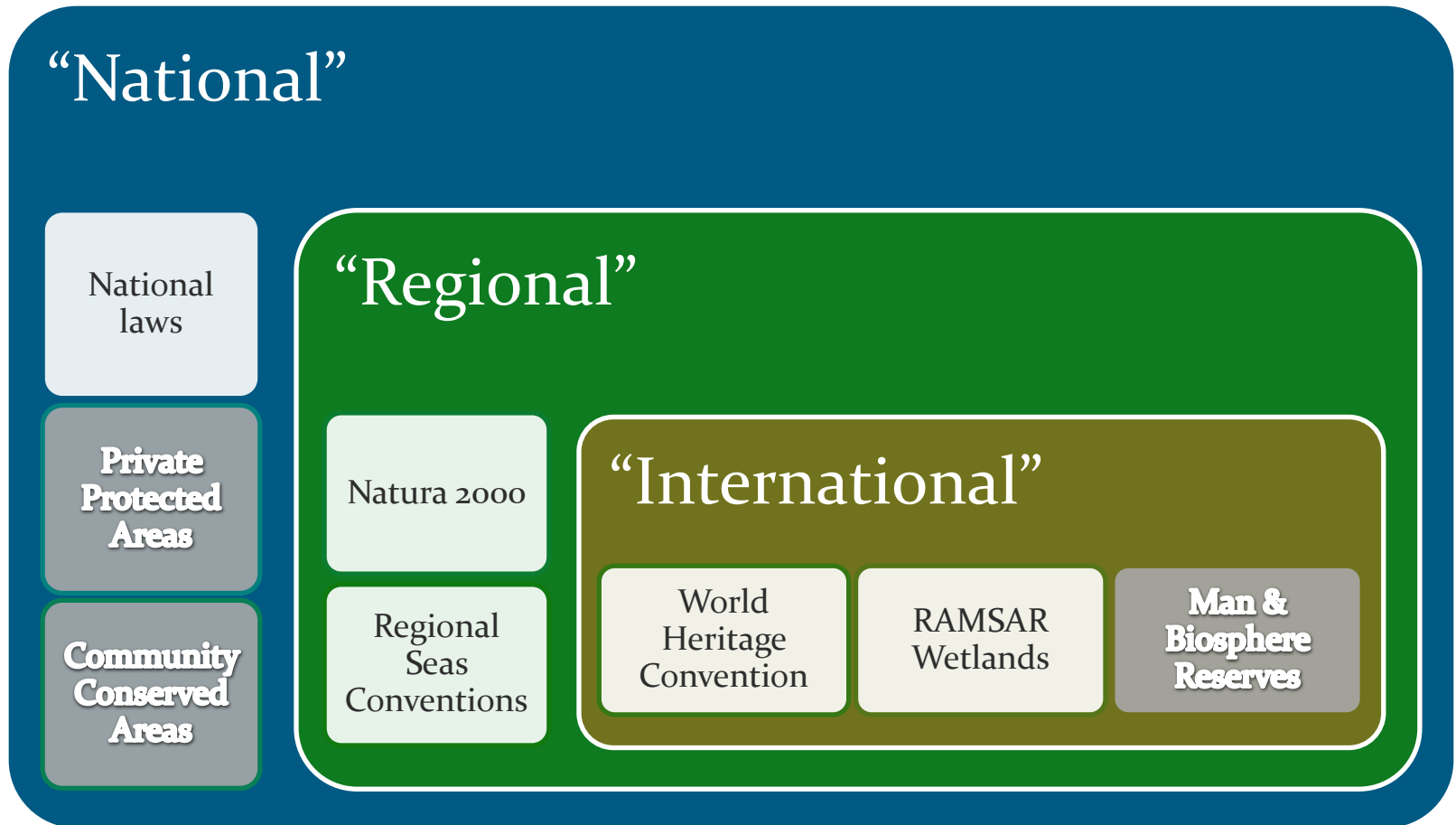


WDPA May 2014: 193,942 records

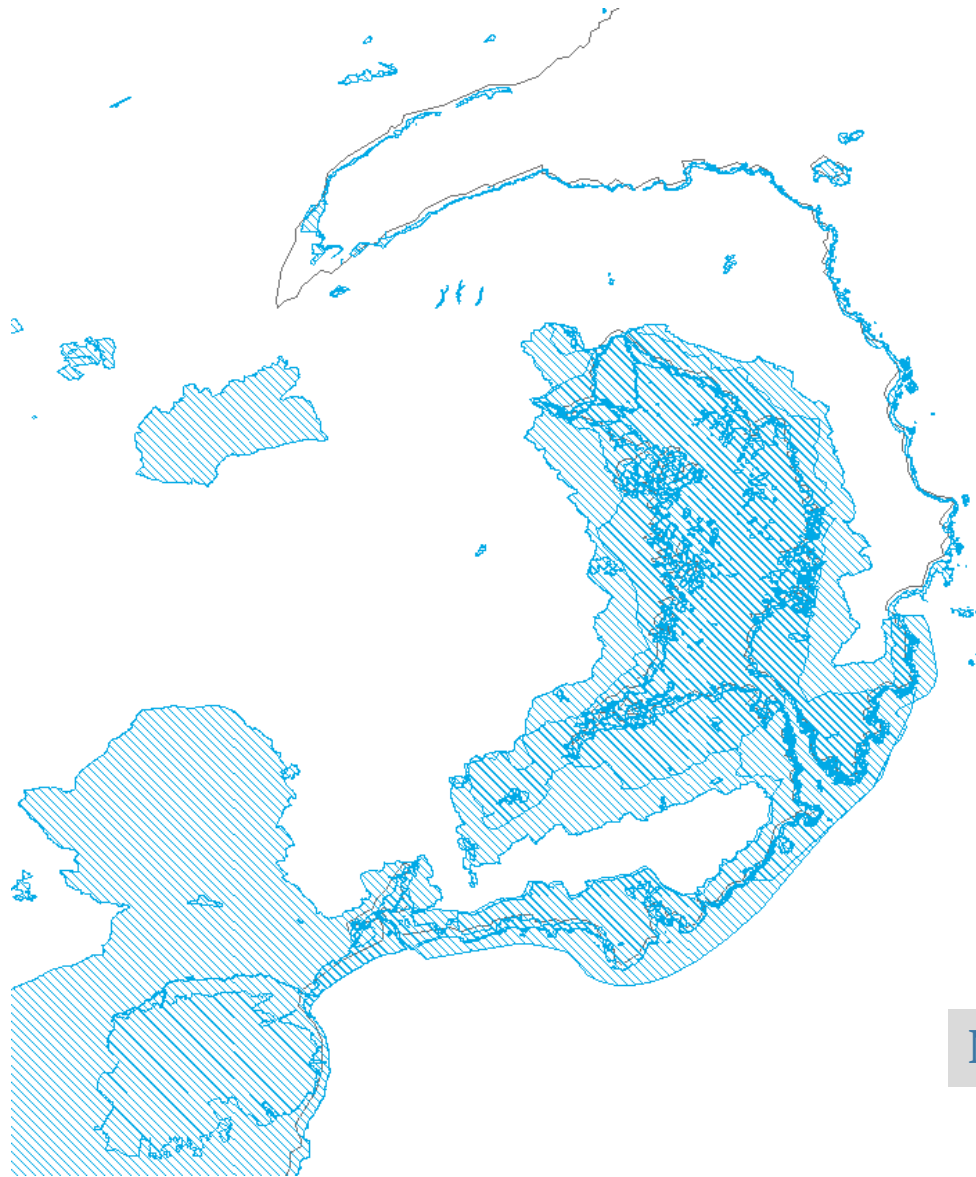


Designation type

Designation type



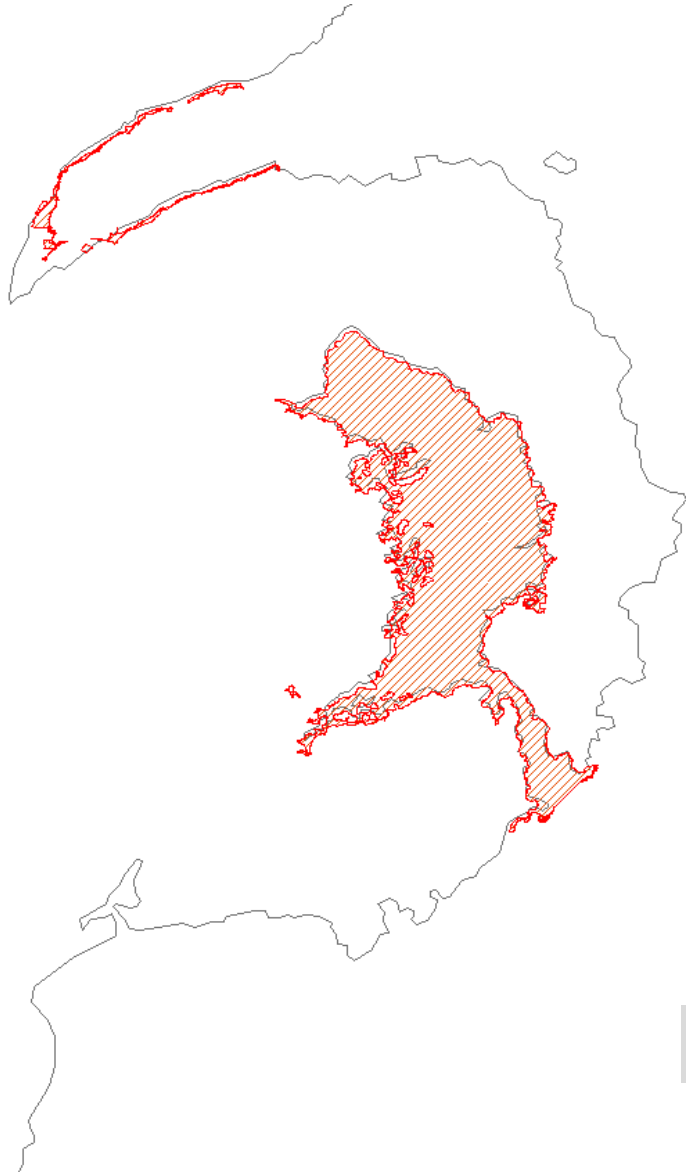




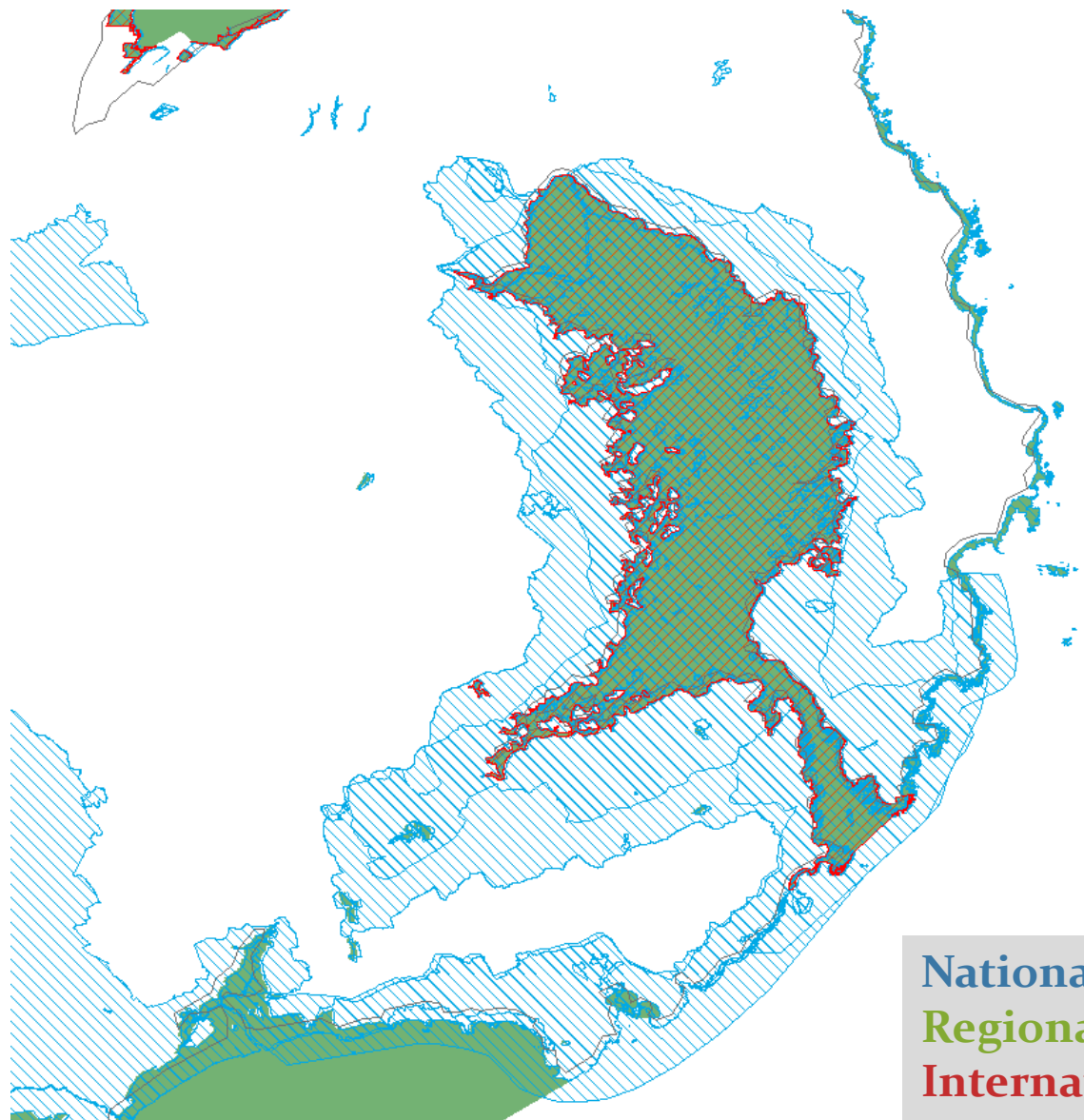
National Blue



Regional Green



International Red



National	Blue
Regional	Green
International	Red

National, Regional & International

Sites can be important nationally and internationally, but still not be designated an international protected area

Capacity, funding, and time all affect a country's ability to designate sites, esp. at an international level

A national site may have equal or higher biodiversity value and legal protection than an international site

IUCN Management Categories

IUCN Management Categories

First called for in Yellowstone at the second World Parks Congress

System proposed in 1978

Workshop at the third World Parks Congress in Venezuela

Published in 1994

Revised guidelines published in 2008, 2013

Marine guidelines published in 2012

IUCN Management Categories

A method for the classification management objective of a protected area

Help countries design a system of sites with a range of complementary management objectives

Voluntary system so many protected areas do not have an assigned category



Protected areas without management categories are still protected areas!

IUCN Management categories



Ia	Strict nature reserve	
Ib	Wilderness area	
II	National park	
III	Natural monument	
IV	Habitat/species management area	
V	Protected landscape/seascape	
VI	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	
	Not recorded	

IUCN Management Categories



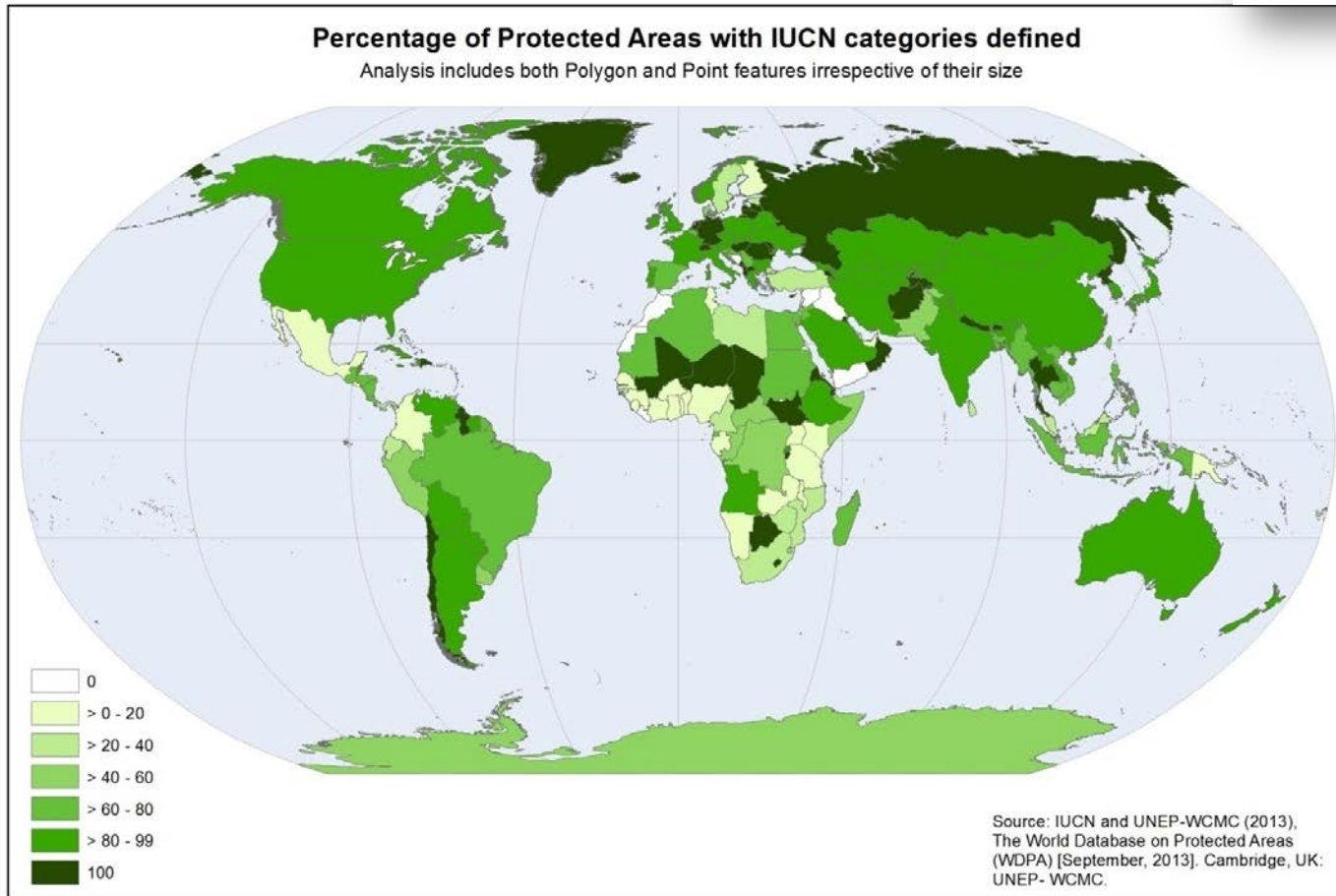
Not intended to prioritise some sites over others

Not hierarchical

Not universally or consistently applied

Treat with caution, and make sure to understand the national context

Not universally applied



The names can be confusing

Countries do not name their protected areas according to the IUCN Category titles

Protected areas called 'National Park' in the title are not necessarily IUCN Category II



Swiss National Park



The Burren National Park



Everglades National Park



A misty forest scene with tall trees and a fallen log in the foreground. The forest is dense with tall, thin trees, and the ground is covered in moss and fallen branches. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The text "Białowieża National Park" is overlaid on a dark green banner in the upper left corner.

Białowieża National Park

Victoria Falls National Park



Yorkshire Dales National Park





IUCN Categories: National Parks

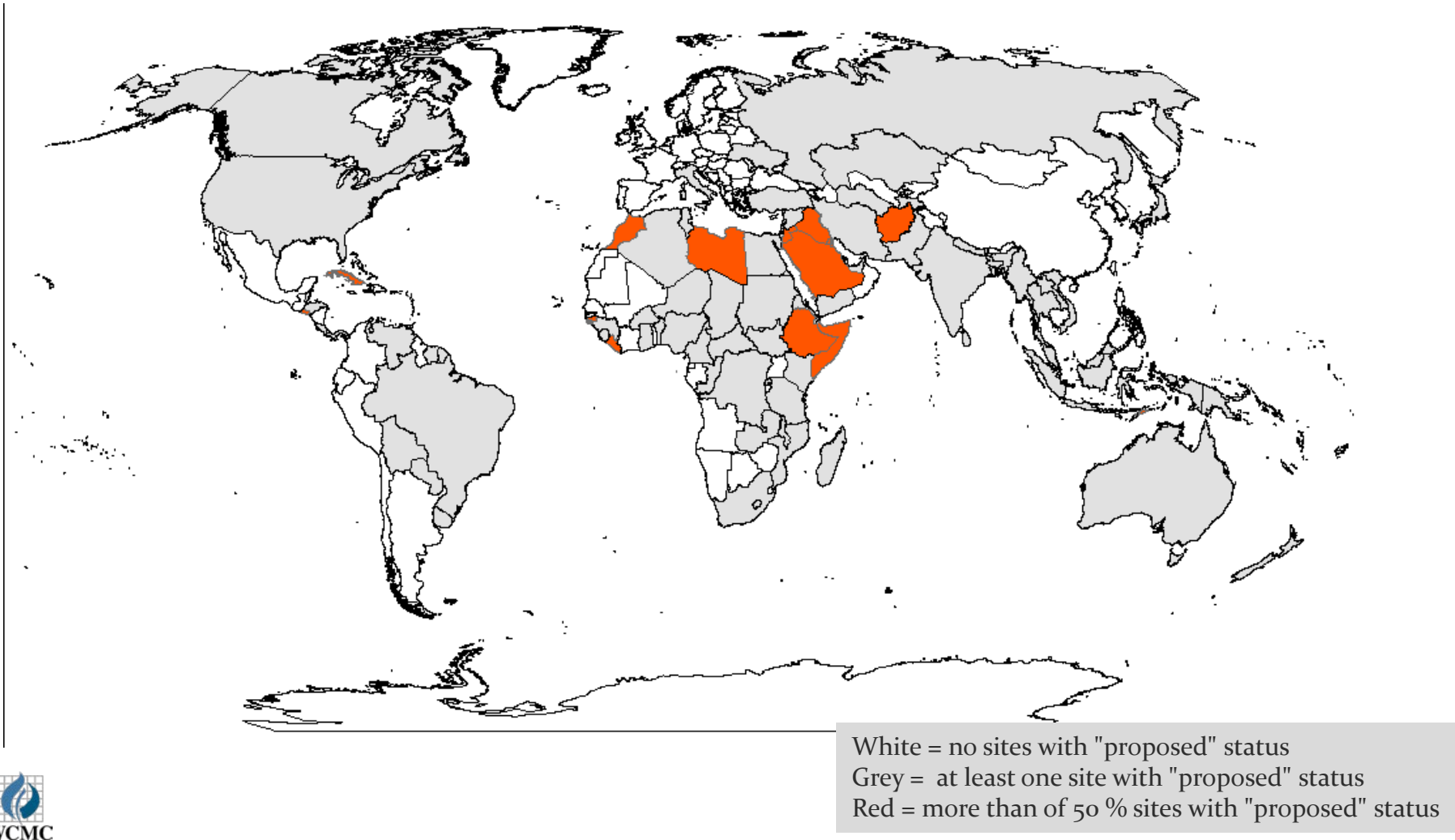
Ia	Swiss National Park	Switzerland
Ib	Everglades National Park	USA
II	Białowieża National Park	Poland
III	Victoria Falls National Park	Zimbabwe
IV	Vitosha National Park	Bulgaria
V	Yorkshire Dales National Park	UK
VI	Etniko Ygrotopiko Parko	Greece
Not recorded	Burren National Park	Ireland

Proposed Protected Areas

Proposed Protected Areas

- 107 Countries have submitted Proposed Protected Areas to the WDPA
- This makes up 1.4% of sites globally
- May be the result of legal ‘quirks’ in national systems
- If a proposed site has a boundary and has been reported, this suggests it is nationally important

Proposed Protected Areas



Summary

- Protected Areas systems vary widely from country to country
- International Sites are not necessarily more important than national sites
- Sites without an IUCN Management Category are protected areas and have value
- Not all 'National Parks' are IUCN Category II
- Proposed sites should be included in assessments
- It is important to understand the national context

Thank you!

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