



# World Heritage Sites Biosphere Reserves and Extractives

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# Key Questions



What are international protected areas and why are they important for extractive industries?

What is special about World Heritage sites and what are their implications for extractive industries?

How do Biosphere Reserves differ from World Heritage sites?

# Lake Baikal

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## Putin orders oil pipeline shifted

**Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the route of a controversial new oil pipeline should be altered to avoid the world's deepest freshwater lake.**

Mr Putin said the route, which would have passed close to Lake Baikal, should move 40km (25 miles) north.

Environmentalists who feared the eastern pipeline would pose a risk to Lake Baikal's unique biodiversity say the decision is a campaign victory.

The pipeline will link the Siberian oil fields and the Pacific coast.

Lake Baikal, designated a World heritage site by Unesco, is home to hundreds of unique species and the region includes the last remaining wild habitat of Russia's Amur leopard.

The area is also prone to seismic activity and campaigners feared earthquakes could disrupt the pipeline, causing an oil spill and irreversible damage to the wildlife.

The state-backed pipeline monopoly Transneft has in the past said that rerouting the 1.6 million-barrel-a-day pipeline from the proposed path along the shores of Lake Baikal would cost up to a billion dollars.



Ecological campaigners have fought the Lake Baikal route

**BBC NEWS: VIDEO AND AUDIO**  
President Putin calls for the pipeline to be moved  
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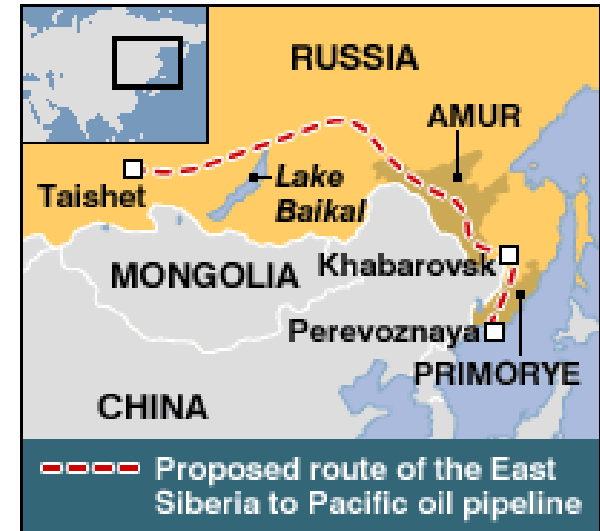
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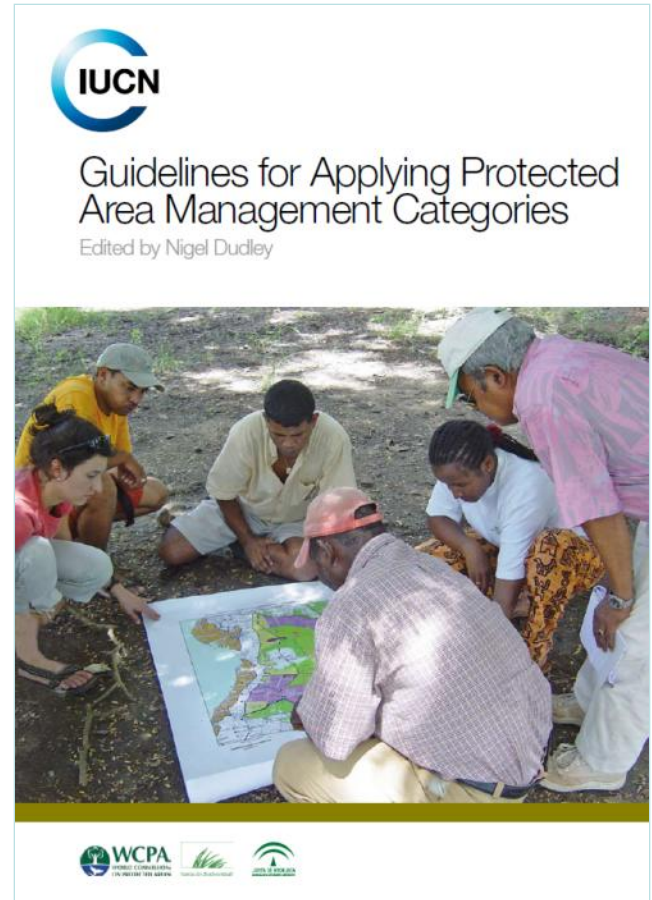
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# IUCN Definition of Protected Areas

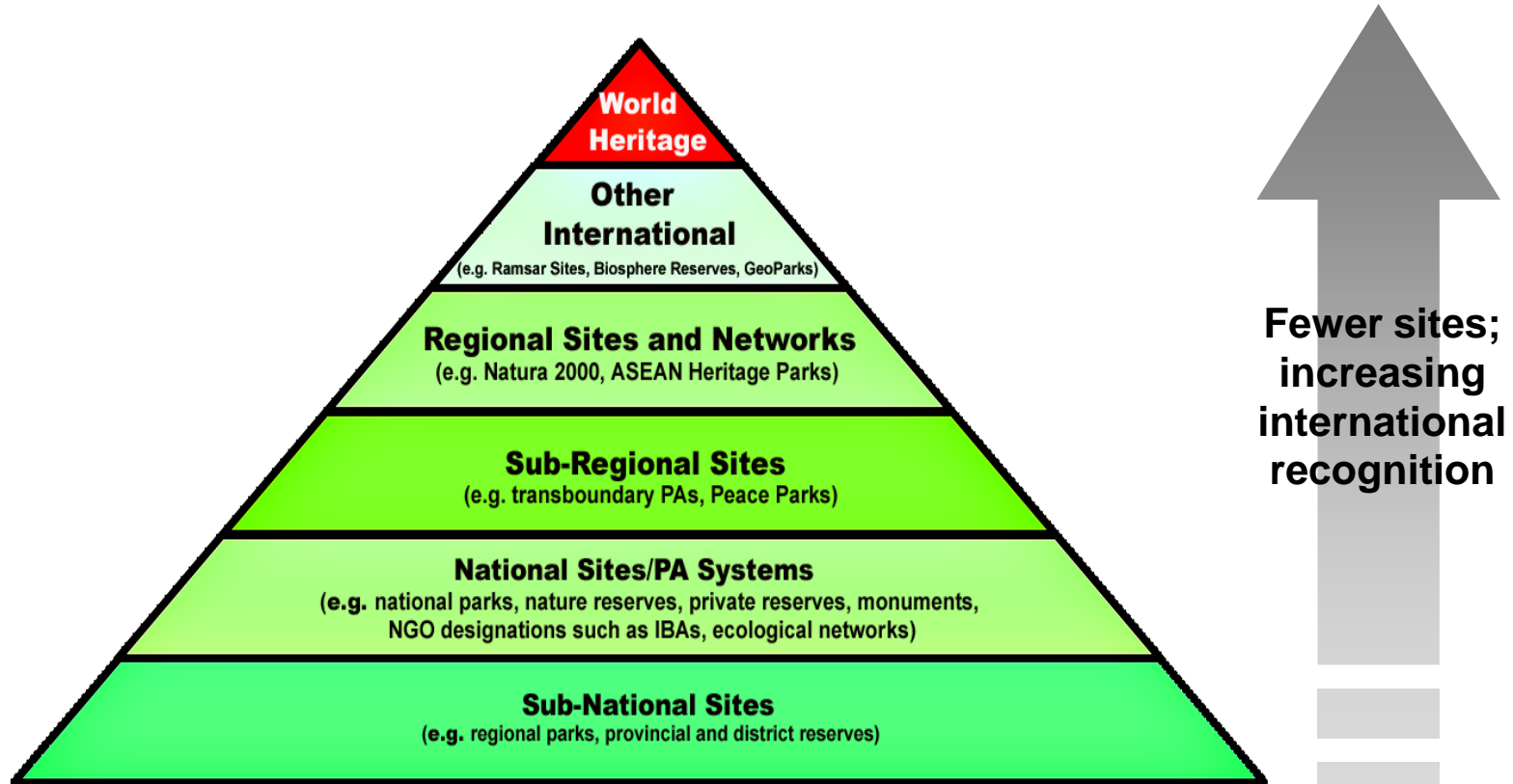
- “A clearly defined geographical space, **recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means**, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values” (IUCN 2008)



# Relevance of Protected Areas

- Protected areas cover >12% of the world
- Protect natural resources, ecosystems and species
- Provide goods and services essential to human wellbeing
- Play a key role in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development (cf. Convention on Biological Diversity and Millennium Development Goals)
- Different types of protected areas require different standards of operation by natural resource industries
- Play a key role in corporate decision-making

# Types of Protected Areas



# International Protected Areas

- Recognized under global or regional conventions and agreements (e.g. Ramsar sites, Natura 2000 sites)
- Must meet the criteria of these conventions and agreements to be recognized
- 3 globally most important types:
  - World Heritage sites (UNESCO WHC)
  - Biosphere Reserves (UNESCO MAB)
  - Ramsar sites (Ramsar Convention)

# World Heritage as “No-go” Areas

Put natural World Heritage sites off limits for mining and oil exploration, IUCN says

04 July 2008 | News - News story

More than a quarter of natural World Heritage sites are under pressure by existing or future mineral extraction. For this reason, IUCN is calling on the private sector, state-run companies and governments themselves to adopt and enforce the “no go” principle, meaning that no mining and/or mineral and oil exploration and production can be carried out in World Heritage sites. The call was made today in Québec City, Canada, during the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee.

UNESCO World Heritage Committee 2010:

“reiterates that active mining is not compatible with World Heritage Site status”  
(Decision 34 COM 8B.44)

# “No-go” Commitments



**PRESS RELEASE**

London - 20 August 2003

## Landmark 'no-go' pledge from leading mining companies

Corporate membership of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) - comprised of 15 of the world's largest mining and metal producing companies - has signed an undertaking to recognise existing World Heritage properties as 'no-go' areas.

The announcement results from a dialogue process with IUCN - The World Conservation Union - started earlier this year. It includes an undertaking 'not to explore or mine in World Heritage properties' and a commitment to take all possible steps to ensure that operations are not incompatible with the outstanding universal values of World Heritage properties.

ICMM members recognise the role of properly designated and managed protected areas in conservation strategies and the importance of national and global protected area systems. They further recognise that, in some cases, exploration and mining development may be incompatible with the objectives for which areas are designated for protection.

ICMM is committed to working with IUCN to strengthen its system of protected area categorisation. ICMM members recognise that sufficient reform of this system will lead to recognition of categories of protected areas as 'no-go' areas and others with a multiple-use designation.

# “No-go” Commitments



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### Operating in areas of high biodiversity

Working with biodiversity experts

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## Operating in areas of high biodiversity value

We follow strict operating practices to help preserve areas rich in biodiversity.

We believe some areas are too sensitive to enter. But we also believe that through a transparent process, partnerships and stringent operating practices it is possible to operate responsibly in some areas that are under protection or rich in biodiversity. We define areas high in biodiversity value as:

- areas protected by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (categories I-VI);
- wetlands of international importance (according to the Ramsar convention);
- Natura 2000 sites (under the European Birds Directive and Habitats Directive);
- important bird areas (defined by Birdlife International); and
- and biosphere reserves (under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme).

We made the following four commitments in 2003:

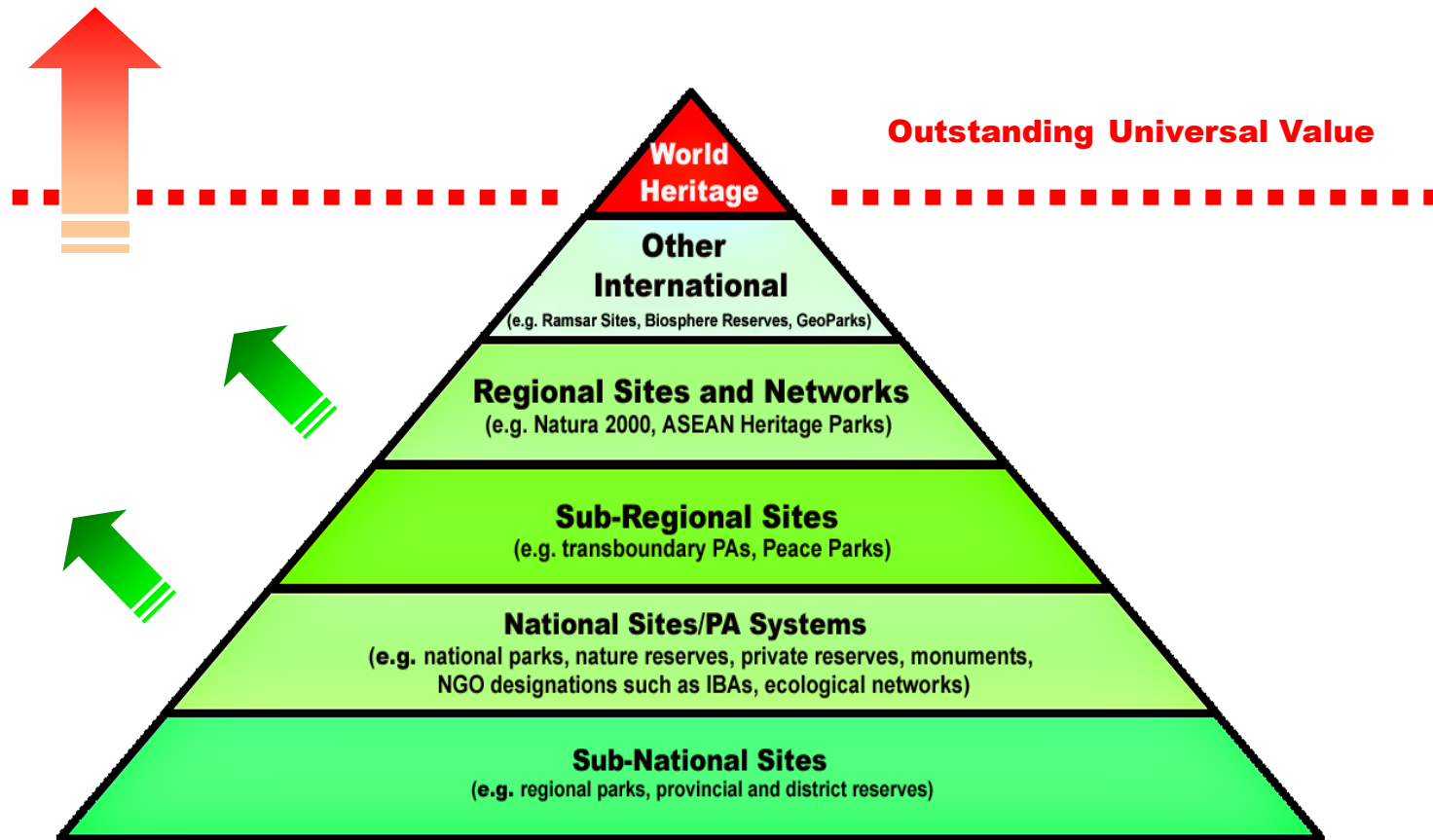
1. We will not explore for, or develop, oil and gas resources in natural World Heritage Sites.
2. We will further improve the way we operate in IUCN Category I-IV protected areas, and areas of high biodiversity value.
3. We will publicly report on our activities in IUCN Categories I-IV.
4. We will work with IUCN and others to help safeguard protected areas.

We have developed biodiversity action plans for major operations in areas of high biodiversity value to help improve the way we operate. Guidance from IPIECA/OGP ("[A Guide to Developing Biodiversity Action Plans for the Oil and Gas Sector](#)" (PDF, 782 KB) - [opens in new window](#)) forms the basis of each plan. We had plans in place at nine major operations in areas of high biodiversity value by the end of 2009, including six in places designated by the IUCN as Category I-IV protected areas.

# World Heritage Sites

- “Crown Jewels“ of Nature:
  - Great Barrier Reef, Australia
  - Central Amazon Conservation Complex, Brazil
  - Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries, China
  - Galápagos Islands, Ecuador
  - Sundarbans National Park, India
  - Serengeti National Park, Tanzania
  - Yellowstone National Park, USA
  - ...

# World Heritage Sites



# World Heritage Concept

**OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE**

**WORLD HERITAGE  
CRITERIA**

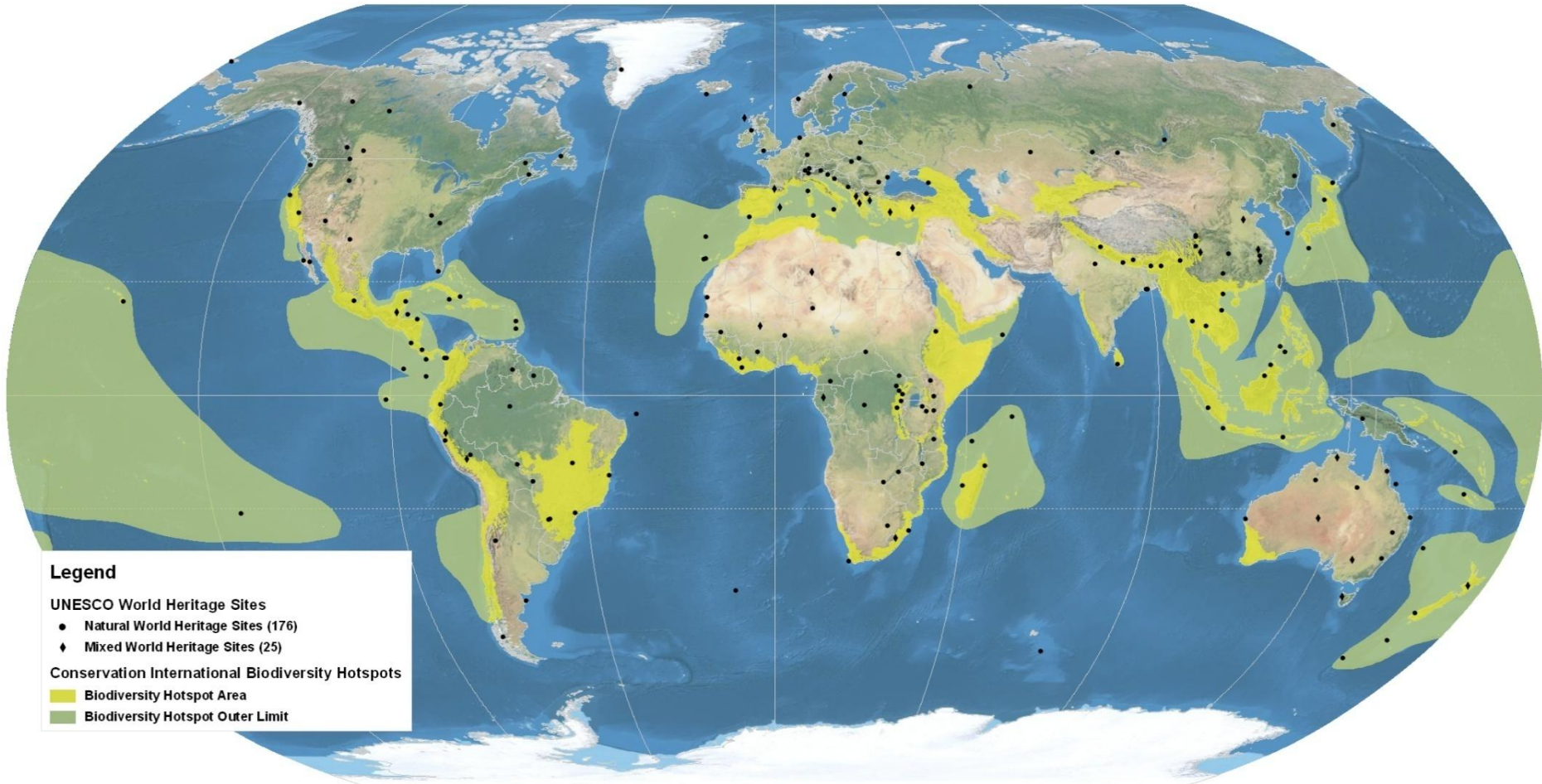
**INTEGRITY AND  
AUTHENTICITY**

**PROTECTION AND  
MANAGEMENT**

# World Heritage Network

- 911 sites in 151 of 187 States Parties:  
704 cultural, 180 natural and 27 mixed
- Some 10-20 cultural sites and 2-8 natural sites added to the WH List annually
- 207 natural/mixed sites protect some 250,000,000 ha of land and sea
- **i.e. >10% of the total area of all the 130,000+ protected areas in the WDPA**

# 201 Natural/Mixed Sites by 2009



**Legend**

**UNESCO World Heritage Sites**

- Natural World Heritage Sites (176)
- ◆ Mixed World Heritage Sites (25)

**Conservation International Biodiversity Hotspots**

- Biodiversity Hotspot Area
- Biodiversity Hotspot Outer Limit

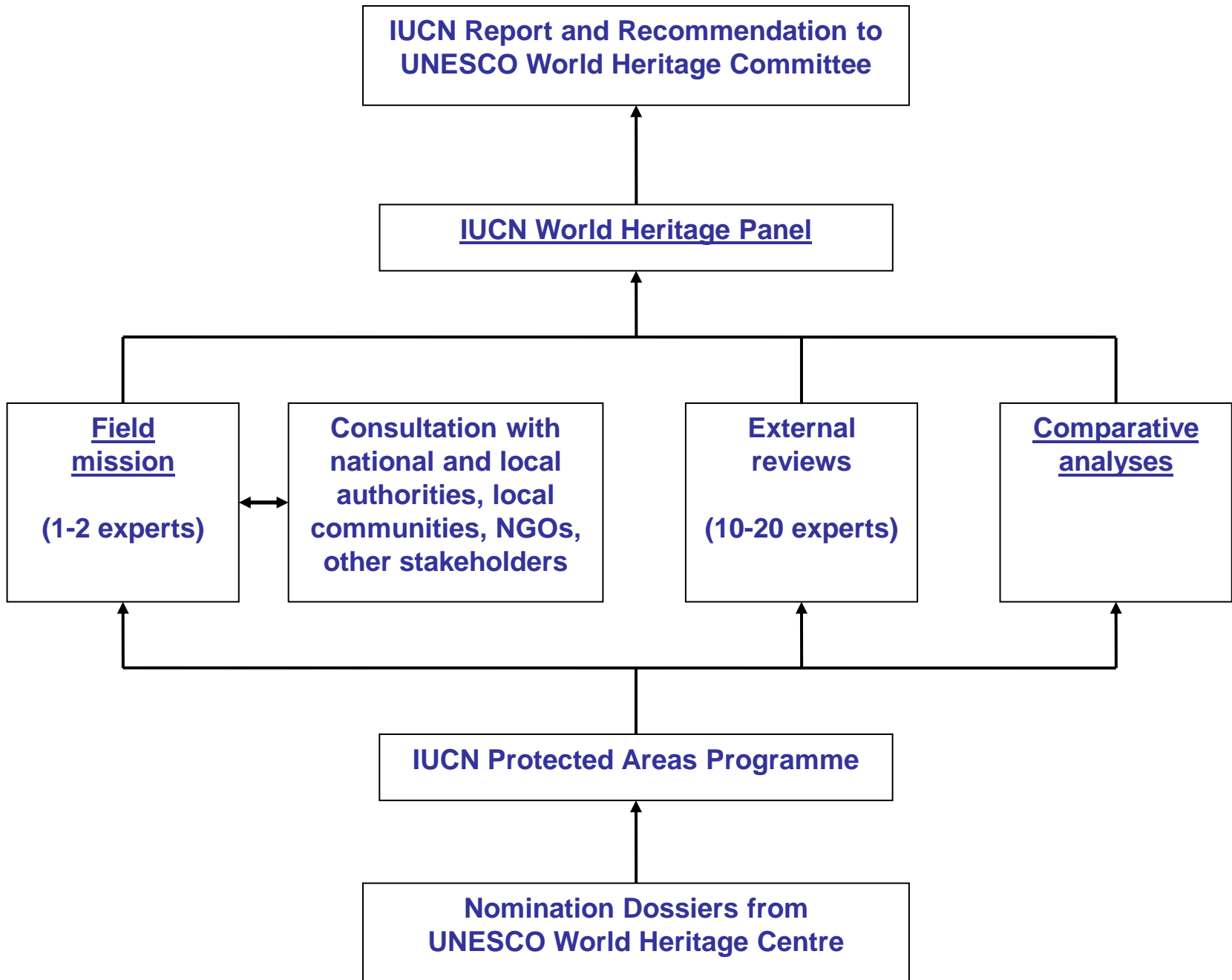
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Data sources:  
ArcGIS Online Standard Map Services, ESRI 2009  
Hotspots Revisited, Conservation International 2004  
Natural and Mixed World Heritage Sites, UNESCO 2009  
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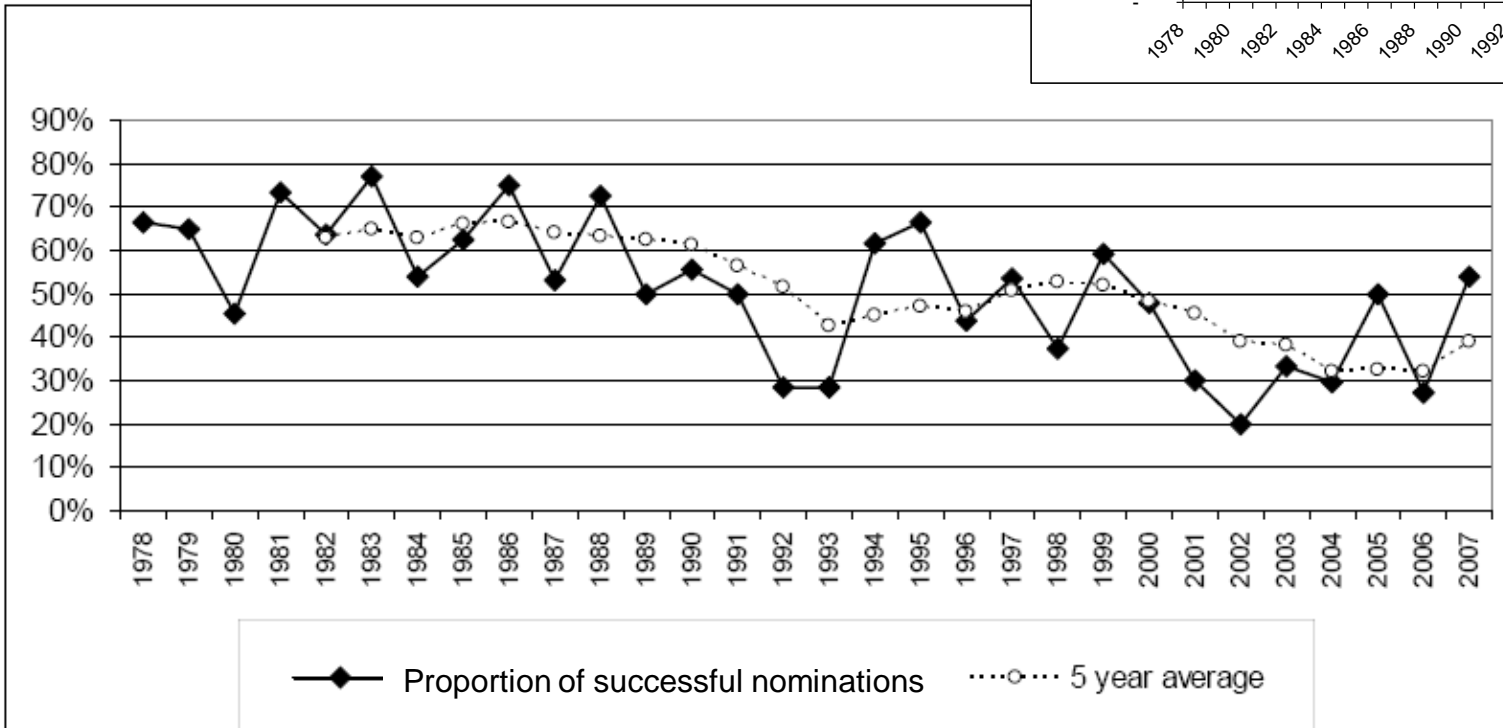
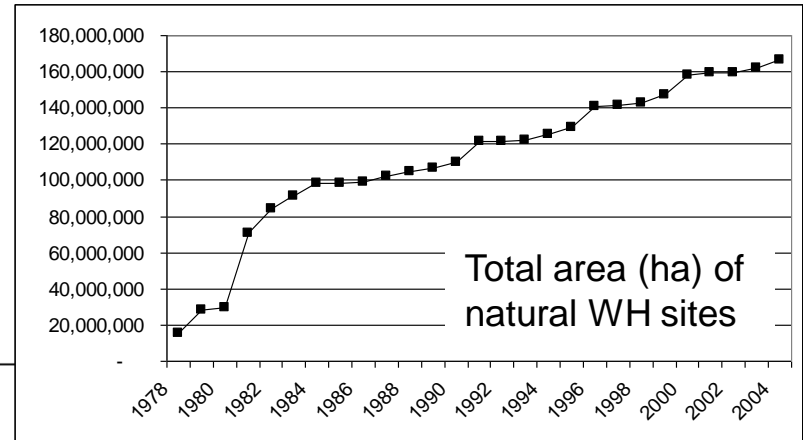


# Nomination / Evaluation Process

- State Party includes potential candidate site on its **Tentative List** (not all TL sites will be nominated)
- State Party submits **nomination** to UNESCO
- Advisory Bodies evaluate complete nominations
- IUCN carries out **evaluation** of natural sites
- IUCN evaluations seek to meet highest quality standards: objective, rigorous and scientific



# Success Rate of Nominations



# Extractive Issues at Nominated Sites

- Extractive activities are frequently an issue in evaluations
- Extractive industry representatives are met during field missions where relevant
- Extractive issues are followed up with State Party as part of evaluation process
- Evaluations observe the 'no-go' principle but also recognise good practice and means of site design to manage impacts of adjoining extractive industry

# The Wadden Sea

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ENVIRONMENT | 26.06.2009

## Germany's Wadden Sea mudflats named world heritage site



Parts of the Wadden Sea are already protected

Germany's Wadden Sea has been added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites. The decision was announced Friday at the World Heritage Committee's annual meeting in Seville, Spain.

Germany and the Netherlands region along their northern coasts, as a contender for UNESCO World Heritage status in 2008. Friday's announcement marked the final step towards awarding the status.

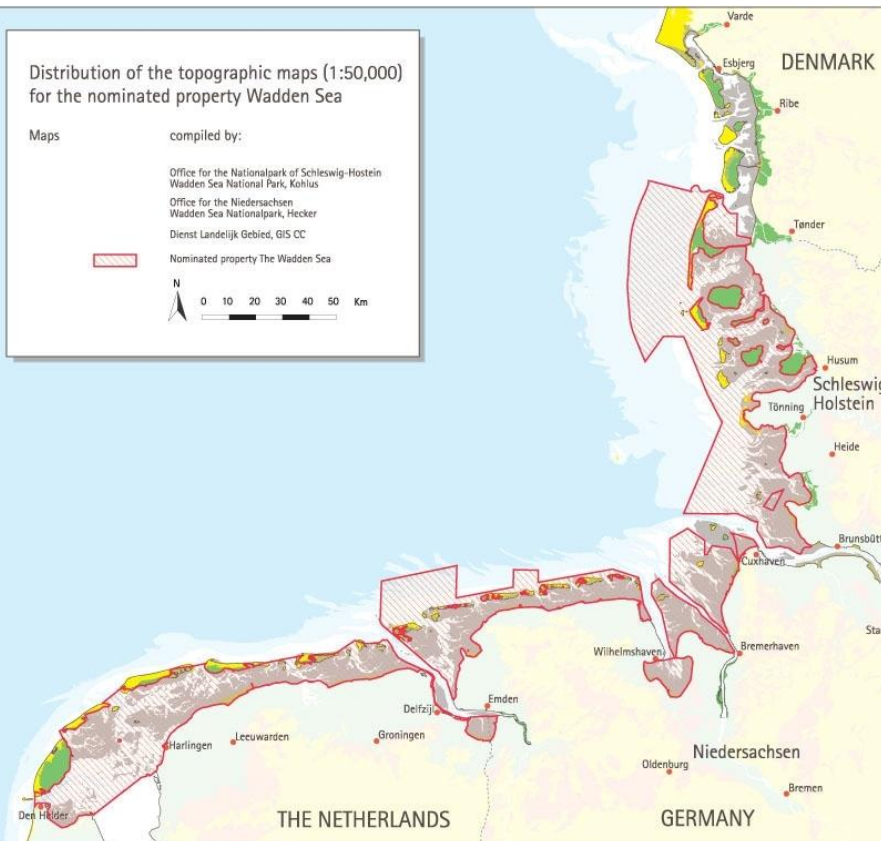
Recently, the Wadden Sea has been under increasing traffic and plans for oil and gas drilling. This change could have on the area.

Visited by thousands of tourists every year, the Wadden Sea borders three countries: Germany, the Netherlands, and Denmark. Visitors flock there year-round to enjoy the unique landscape between land and sea, and its diverse wildlife.

### Under protection

In 1985, Germany officially declared the Wadden Sea a national park. Parts of it have also been protected in the Netherlands.

Environmentalists fear for the Wadden Sea. The Ems River, which borders the Wadden Sea, could have a damaging effect on the area. Their home there, including seals, are at risk. The Wadden Sea is a source of food during migration.



# Extractive Issues at Existing Sites

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of State of Conservation reports for natural WH sites</b>	<b>Number of reports with “extractive issues”</b>
2006	50	13
2007	58	14
2008	57	15

# Types of Extractive Issues

- Existing or potential extractive activity inside WH sites (legal / illegal, artisanal / industrial)
- Impacts / potential impacts on WH sites from extractive activity outside WH sites
- Pre-existing concessions, granting of concessions and non-withdrawal of concessions
- Changes in regulation that could allow mining in protected areas including WH sites
- Lack of coordination at State level

# Arabian Oryx Sanctuary

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## Oman's Oryx Sanctuary Off World Heritage List: 22 Sites Inscribed

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, July 2, 2007 (ENS) - Oman's Arabian Oryx Sanctuary, inhabited by the rare species of long horned antelope, has become the first site ever to be deleted from the World Heritage List since UNESCO's 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage entered into force.

At its meeting in Christchurch, which concludes today, the World Heritage Committee deleted the property because of Oman's decision to reduce the size of the protected area by 90 percent, in contravention of the Operational Guidelines of the Convention.



The Arabian oryx is vanishing due to poaching, and now oil exploration in its sanctuary. (Photo courtesy [UNESCO](#))

This was viewed by the Committee as destroying the outstanding universal value of the sanctuary in the Wusta region, which was created in 1994 by Royal Decree and inscribed on the World Heritage List that same year.

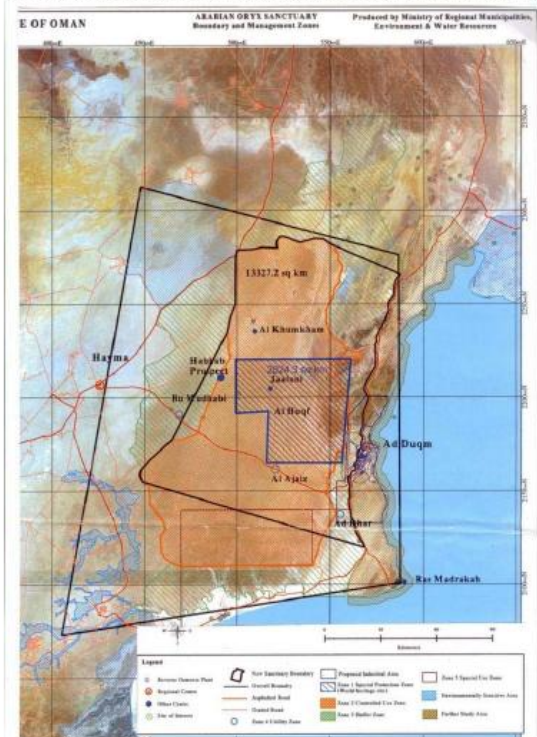
In 1996, the population of the Arabian oryx in the site stood at 450, but due to poaching and habitat degradation, oryx numbers have dwindled to 65 animals with only about four breeding pairs, making viability of this population uncertain.

After extensive consultation with the government of Oman, the Committee felt that the unilateral reduction in the size of the sanctuary and plans to proceed with hydrocarbon prospection would destroy the value and integrity of the site.

The sanctuary is also inhabited by other endangered species, including the Arabian gazelle and houbara bustard.

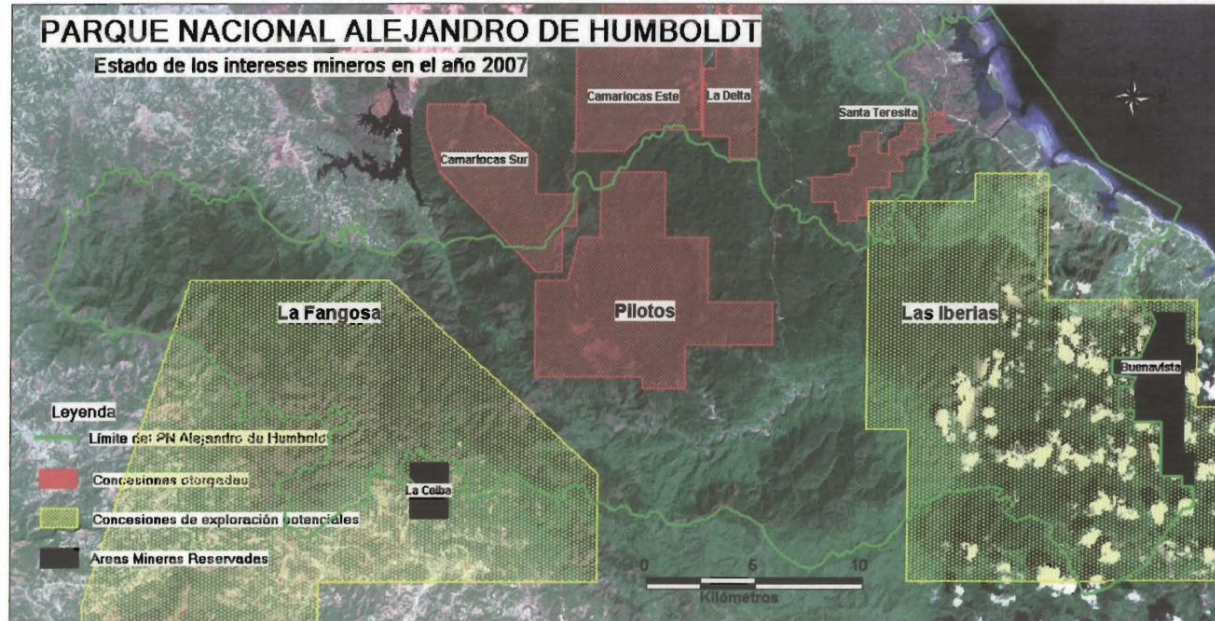
### Map of Arabian Oryx Sanctuary – 1994 and 2007 Royal Decrees.

Note – Royal Decree 11/07 (2007) new Boundaries of AOS and WHS in blue (2,824.3 km<sup>2</sup>). 1994 Royal Decree boundary – black rectangle lines. December 2006 proposed new AOS boundary (Sanctuary) of 13, 327km<sup>2</sup>, no longer valid since Decree 11/07 of 28 January 2007.



# Alejandro de Humboldt N.P.

Annex 6. 2007 Concessions



3. Acknowledges with appreciation the commitment from Sherrit International (Canada) to abstain from exploring or exploiting the mining concession granted within this property in line with the international policy statement of the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) of not undertaking these activities in World Heritage properties;
4. Requests the State Party to make a clear and unequivocal commitment to close down the mining concessions granted within the boundaries of the property, or those in its periphery that could affect the property;

# Biosphere Reserves

- UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme
- World Network of Biosphere Reserves: 564 sites in 109 countries (some 10-20 sites added annually)
- Three functions with the goal to reconcile conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use:
  - 1) Biodiversity conservation
  - 2) Sustainable development
  - 3) Research, monitoring, education
- Three zones: only core areas require legal protection, buffer and transition areas may be legally protected
- At least core areas overlap with national and other international PAs (e.g. natural WH sites)

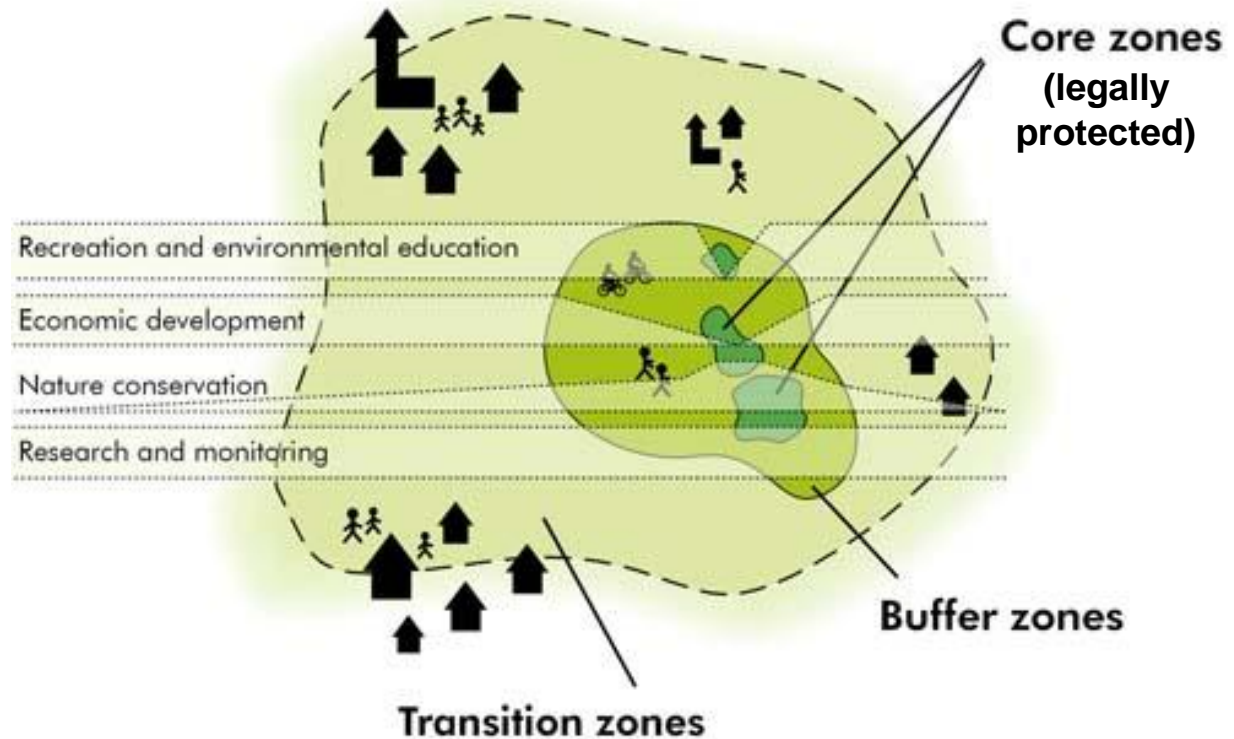
# Biosphere Reserves

Natural WH site



Buffer zone  
(not part of  
the property)

Biosphere Reserve



# Conclusions

- International protected areas are important to extractive industries
- Pressures on international protected areas from extractive industries are of growing concern
- Strong calls for natural WH sites to be “no-go” areas for extractive industries (e.g. from UNESCO World Heritage Committee)
- Up-to-date information on natural WH sites is critical for extractive industries



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