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Action Plan for the Protected Natural Areas of Spain



Procedure for Assigning IUCN Protected Area Management Categories



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Procedure for Assigning IUCN Protected Area Management Categories



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PARA LOS ESPACIOS NATURALES



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Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park

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Cueva del Lloviu Partial Natural Reserve
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1 Introduction

The classification of protected natural areas has the aim of establishing a limited number of protection categories that bestow equivalent status on those with similar management objectives. This allows the comparative analysis of protection systems and a more precise identification of the objectives of protected areas at a global level.

The establishment of a common system of categories based on management objectives is now enjoying renewed international interest. A call for the adoption of a single international classification system describing protected areas was made at the Seventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; the references to the system of categories made in the Programme of Work on Protected Areas approved at this conference are of particular interest.¹

The criteria adopted to orientate the policies of several transnational bodies now include avoiding actions in sensitive areas such as World Heritage Sites or sites invested with international category protection status.

The advantages of a classification system employing international standards are becoming ever more clear. The current proliferation of legal protection statuses (which is accentuated in countries whose governments are very decentralised and where the making of such declarations is the function of regional governments), the superimposition of transnational conservation networks (such as Natura 2000 in the European Union), and the making of explicit references to IUCN categories in certain national legislations, are just some of the elements that suggest the objective assignment of protected area management categories would be opportune. The idea is not so much to homogenise (the diversity of situations and the capacity and right of different bodies to designate different names is recognised) but to establish analogies or correspondences that facilitate communication and professional intercourse – to develop a common language that in the future will allow the correspondence between the management objectives of different areas to be examined.

1. UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21 Decision VII/28, Protected areas (Articles 8a-e) <http://www.cbd.int/decisions/?m=COP-07&id=7765&lg=0>.

The management categories published by the IUCN in 1994 offer an internationally accepted reference framework that affords a common tongue regarding the intrinsic characteristics and basic management objectives of protected areas - a system independent of the legal denominations used in each territory. However, the assignment of categories is no simple task, and even the definition of the different categories is a matter of some controversy (Locke and Dearden, 2005; Mallarach et al., 2007).

In fact the IUCN system is currently undergoing revision with the aim of better defining each category; this should result in its more objective use. The first major high point in this process was the Categories Summit, held in Almería (Spain) in May 2007, out of which several publications were born (e.g., López Ornat et al., 2007). A revised version of the categories will be presented to the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in October 2008.

Using the category system currently in force (IUCN, 1994), the present document analyses the bestowal of IUCN category statuses and proposes a systematic procedure for making such assignments. A number of selected pilot cases from around the world where this procedure has been used are discussed.

The objectives of the present document are:

- To present a simple, flexible method by which to assign IUCN categories to protected natural areas.
- To provide elements for consideration during the production of new legislation regarding protected natural areas and the design of management plans.
- To provide elements for reflection as well as practical tools for the international debate regarding the bestowal of IUCN categories.

1.1. Background to and methodology used in the production of this document

A number of countries have experience in the adaptation and use of the IUCN category system – a sign of the interest in its use. The application manual for Australia and New Zealand (WCPA Australia and New Zealand Region, 2000), the work group established by the European Section of the World Commission on Protected Areas of the IUCN (WCPA, 2004) for the development of a protected area status and management certification procedure, or the use of different tools for the systematic assignment of categories (EUROPARC-Spain, 2005; Dudley and Borrini-Feyerabend, 2007) testify to this.

The proposal made in the present document is the result of a long process of analysis and participation involving experts and managers of protected areas in different regions and countries. This involved the following phases:

1. Participation of the Technical Office of EUROPARC-Spain in the IUCN/WCPA workgroups for the development of a protected area status and management certification procedure based on the IUCN management categories proposed at the World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa, Sept. 2003 (de Lucio and Múgica, 2003).
2. Analysis of the IUCN guidelines (1994) and the writing of a first procedure for assigning IUCN categories to protected areas in Spain (seven pilot cases) – one of the priorities of EUROPARC-Spain Action Plan (EUROPARC-Spain, 2002).
3. Seminar with technicians from different administrative bodies with authority in matters relating to natural protected areas in which the category assignment procedure was used with a range of case studies (Parque Natural Señorío de Bertiz, November 2005).
4. The suggestions and conclusions arising from this seminar were incorporated into the document published in February 2006 on the EUROPARC-Spain web page and disseminated among its members.
5. The procedure was tested at a monographic workshop within the framework of the EUROPARC-Spain Annual Congress in June 2006 (EUROPARC-Spain, 2007), in which its usefulness was validated and certain improvements suggested.
6. This document was translated into English with the support of the IUCN, and sent to IUCN headquarters in Gland, Switzerland, to the *Centro de Cooperación del Mediterráneo de la IUCN*, Malaga, Spain, and disseminated among the European members of the EUROPARC Federation.
7. The procedure was then presented at international meetings: at the IUCN-WCPA Category V Meeting (Parque Natural de la Zona Volcánica de la Garrotxa, Olot, Spain, September 2006), and at the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas meeting (Barcelona, October 2006).
8. The document was used as reference material at the Categories Summit where it was presented at the workshop *“How can we improve the process of assignment of protected areas to categories?”* (IUCN Protected Areas Categories Summit, Almeria, 7 - 11 May 2007).
9. The document was then sent to a network of collaborators around the world with the aim of examining its applicability in a wider setting and incorporating case studies from different biogeographic areas.

10. The new case studies were included, along with the lessons learned during the use of the method.
11. Publication and dissemination of the final document.

It is important to remember that this document presents a method for the assignment of categories according to the 1994 IUCN guidelines. The value of the proposed procedure lies in its robustness and the fact that it can easily be adapted to changes in category definitions or in the guidelines for their use.

2 IUCN Management Categories and their Assignment

2.1. Definition of the categories and considerations for their assignment

Currently, the reference international classification is that proposed by the IUCN in 1994, which is based on six management categories (IUCN, 1994) (Table 1). The wide variety of situations seen worldwide and the difficulty in using the system made it necessary to establish application criteria for use in Europe (EUROPARC and IUCN, 1999).

Table 1. IUCN management categories (IUCN, 1994)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve: protected area managed mainly for science	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.
Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection	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.
II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation	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.
III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features	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.
IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention	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.
V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation	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.
VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems	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.

In agreement with IUCN documents, the use of the category system requires the following be borne in mind:

- The category system is a simplification of reality. Protected areas can have many management objectives, sometimes corresponding to different categories. The use of the system requires the assumption that the assignment of a category to each area is necessary – but that this requires a compromise between simplification and excessive detail. Areas with multiple objectives should be assigned the category that corresponds to the main management objectives.
- The categories are defined in terms of the management objectives for the natural area, although a number of conditioning factors are important for the assignment of certain categories. For example, an area strongly altered by Man should not be given Category I status, which is reserved for highly natural areas. The assignment of a category is a decision that should be made by those responsible for policy-making regarding protected areas.
- The management unit is the protected area in question; generally this will be a defined entity afforded some legal status. The associated management objectives refer only to the area covered.
- A territory may be classified in different ways when different protected areas overlap or when one area includes others. When superimposing statuses exist (e.g., reserves within parks), a category should be assigned to each legally established unit.
- Zoning within a protected area may allow certain uses that would not be acceptable if they affected the entire area. However, at least 75% of a protected area should be managed in agreement with the main principles of its declaration. Zoning may involve the coexistence of different management objectives; the assignment of a category, however, should refer to the protected area as a whole.
- International designations should be considered as categories independent of IUCN management categories.
- The size of a protected area is not important, although an area should be sufficiently large to allow its management objectives to be attained.²

2. In the category definitions, size is referred to in two ways:

“The area should be large enough to ensure the integrity of its ecosystems” (Ia), or “The area should be large enough to contain one or more entire ecosystems” (II). It is understood that this refers to areas with complete ecosystems and/or which are home to key ecological processes. No minimum size is mentioned that guarantees the integrity of an ecosystem; this will depend on the characteristics of the ecosystem in question. The area should, however, be of sufficient size to allow management objectives to be attained. This opens the door to the consideration of small areas, as long as the attainment of management objectives is plausible. This is made manifest, although in different words, in Categories Ib, II, IV, V and VI.

- The responsibility for management may fall on public or private authorities or non-governmental organisations etc., and is independent of the category assigned.
- The land involved may be public, communal or private, and is independent of the category assigned.
- There is no order of prevalence of categories, although the category system recognises a gradient of management intensity from Category I to Category V.
- The names or legal statuses of protected areas presupposes no assignment of any particular category. For example Category II is not applicable only to national parks, and not all national parks need be assigned to Category II.
- Homologation implies no assessment of management effectiveness. The management objectives define the category assigned, irrespective of whether these objectives are attained. Verifying whether they are being attained corresponds to an assessment process that has no bearing on the category assigned.

2.2. Importance of the IUCN category system

The responsibility of the declaration and management of protected areas, and therefore the definition of their legal status, corresponds to the state government (or regional government in decentralised states). This legislation may or may not strictly reflect IUCN management categories.

According to an analysis made by the Environmental Law Centre (ELC) of the IUCN as part of the *Speaking a Common Language* project, the management category system has had influence on decisions made at the regional through to international level (Bishop et al., 2004).

With respect to international agreements, the Program for Protected Areas adopted within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity stands out. This recognises “the value of a single international classification system for protected areas and the benefit of providing information that is comparable across countries and regions and therefore *welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas to refine the IUCN system of categories and *encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to assign protected-area management categories to their protected areas, providing information consistent with the refined IUCN categories for reporting purposes”.

The use of comparable categories based on management objectives is of undoubted value for the coordination of initiatives that involve several countries,

such as the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the Emerald Network (Eastern Europe) or Natura 2000 (European Union).

The assignment of IUCN management categories to Natura 2000 areas affords an opportunity to specify their management objectives.

The use of the IUCN management categories in national laws is, however, not all that common. Among the national legislations approved since 1994 (the year in which the six IUCN categories were introduced), only 13 (found among 126 documents reviewed) mention the IUCN system, the majority adapting these categories to the legislation in question. Only two countries have specifically incorporated the IUCN categories: Australia in its *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, 1999, and Georgia, in its *Law on the System of Protected Areas*, 1996) (Bishop et al., 2004).

In Europe, very few countries have in any way incorporated the IUCN categories. The laws of Finland, Sweden, Estonia, the UK, Italy, Poland and Germany make no mention of them at all. Austria (where each of its nine provinces has its own legislation in matters of conservation) makes allusions to them with respect to five national parks. However, some countries have recently reviewed their laws or are in the process of doing so, and are incorporating these categories (e.g., Turkey).³ Others are taking them into account in their strategies for the conservation of biodiversity. Slovenia, for example, makes reference to the IUCN system in its references to woodland, in which it is specified that management must be sustainable in accordance with IUCN Category VI (Bishop et al., 2004). In Spain, the legislation referring to protected areas does not directly use the IUCN categories, but the text of the *Ley de Patrimonio Natural y de la Biodiversidad* bill specifies that "with respect to homologation and meeting international agreements, those natural spaces inscribed in the *Inventario Nacional de Espacios Naturales Protegidos* will be assigned, along with their original denomination, internationally established categories, in particular those of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)."

3. Consultation made by the Technical Office of EUOPARC-Spain to the members of the World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN).

The document *Speaking a Common Language* does not analyse regional legislation, a fundamental question in the case of decentralised countries in which regional or even local authorities may designate protection to an area (often with their own peculiar legal statuses). IUCN categories are not usually mentioned in regional legislation.

2.3. Homologation and certification

Currently, there is no regulated procedure for the assignment of IUCN categories; the problem is solved individually in each case. Categories are usually assigned by national authorities, but sometimes by regional or local authorities, or even by universities or NGOs. The lack of a protocol for category assignment means that those that are made may not always be reliable. Different categories might even be assigned depending upon which authority is charged to carry out this duty. In fact this often falls to departments whose personnel have no direct responsibility towards protected areas (e.g., to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).⁴ Therefore there is no guarantee that, for example, in the United Nations protected area database (WDPA), IUCN categories will have been appropriately assigned. Homologation of categories is clearly necessary.

In agreement with the literature, homologation is the process of checking that the specifications regarding an object or action have been met. Certification is the act of an accredited body that guarantees they have been met. The most common type of certification involving natural protected areas ensures that the procedures followed in their management meet certain standards. On a worldwide scale the international certification systems used include ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 (EMS, *Environmental Management System*), and within the European Union the EMAS system (*European Commission Eco-Management and Audit System*) is used.

With respect to management categories, certification should centre on verifying that the IUCN definitions of the assigned category are indeed met, both with respect to the characteristics of the area in question and its management objectives (Rotherdam, 2001).

4. Conclusions of the workshop *"How can we improve the process of assignment of protected areas to categories?"* IUCN Protected Areas Categories Summit. Almería, 7-11 May 2007.

The certification of a management category does not certify the efficiency of management nor does it verify whether the objectives set out are actually attained. Such a focus would require a process of evaluation of the results achieved (or of the efficiency attained) by the management system followed. This is independent of, although complementary to, the certification of a management category.

The discussion surrounding the assignment of categories ties into the open debate in the World Commission on Protected Areas regarding the need and appropriateness of setting up homologation and certification systems for protected natural areas (Crofts, 2007).

The homologation of protected areas according to IUCN categories should ensure comparisons can be made on a global scale and that they will be of use at the regional or local scale. Thus, a transparent, participatory process must be designed, and an independent accrediting body of recognised prestige must act as the certifying body.

Homologation does not, however, imply that the finer points of each country or region's law be lost. The assignment of a legal status alongside an IUCN category is not incompatible.

3 Procedure for Assigning IUCN Management Categories to Protected Areas

A procedure for assigning the IUCN categories to protected areas is explained below.

IUCN reference documents provide the basic source of information on management categories. These contain two sets of criteria for use in the assignment of a category: the so-called “selection guidelines” and management objectives (see Box 1 and 2). Each selection guideline or management objective has a series of attributes – properties or qualitative features that characterize them. In principle, these attributes could be formalised through the recording of certain variables. For example, the attribute of ecosystem integrity used in the definition of Category I could be estimated using objective indicators such as biological diversity, biomass turnover rate, etc. However, there is currently no commonly accepted system of such variables. We therefore opted to define these attributes as clearly as possible and to simply verify which were contemplated by the objectives contained in the declaration or management plan.

3.1. Assignment of a management category

Phase I. Information gathering

This first phase consists of gathering and analysing the documentation regarding the motives behind the declaration of a protected area, and the management objectives for that area. The following are possible sources of information:

- *Declaration document.* This generally includes the motives or values associated with the declaration of a protected area and the definition of its boundaries, but does not usually mention any management objectives.
- *Management plans.* Though on occasion these can be excessively detailed, their analysis can identify management objectives directly if they are explicit. If not, they can often be inferred.
- *Others.* For example, plans for sustainable development, public use programmes, use by other sectors – these further develop the objectives of the management plan. They therefore provide complementary information.

The result of this phase is a list containing the declaration criteria of the protected area and its management objectives.

Phase II. Analysis of the declaration criteria

For any given protected area, intrinsic characteristics can be identified that motivate the declaration of its protected status. The IUCN provides a series of selection guidelines for each management category with respect to these motives or declaration criteria (Box 1). Table 2 shows the attributes associated with these selection guidelines. Some declaration criteria are primary in nature, i.e., they must be met, while others are secondary in nature, i.e., they need not be met. This phase analyses which declaration criteria in Table 1 are explicitly reflected in the information sources for the protected area, and identifies potentially appropriate management categories.

The most common source of information used in this phase is the declaration of the area's protected status or an equivalent document in which the values motivating such a declaration are laid out.

Table 2. Declaration criteria (compiled by the authors from IUCN documentation [IUCN, 1994])

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–

1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion.

2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion.

– Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.

This preliminary phase reveals the categories that are incompatible with the characteristics of the area in question, and can even provisionally assign one or more management categories.

Box 1. Guidelines for the selection of IUCN categories (IUCN, 1994)

CATEGORY Ia Strict Nature Reserve:

- 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 (c.f. Category IV).
-

CATEGORY Ib Wilderness Area

- 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, physio-geographic, 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.
-

CATEGORY II National Park

- 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.
-

CATEGORY III Natural Monument

- 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.
-

CATEGORY IV Habitat/Species Management Area

- 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 (c.f. 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.
-

Box 1. Guidelines for the selection of IUCN categories (IUCN, 1994) (cont.)

CATEGORY V Protected Landscape/Seascape

- 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.

CATEGORY VI Managed Resource Protected Area

- 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.

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

The management objectives associated with the different categories are described in the corresponding IUCN documents (Box 2), and are complemented with a table in which the primary and secondary objectives are identified (Table 3).

Some of the management objectives of the IUCN categories are specific to a particular category while others apply to groups of categories. The key in Figure 1 can be used to examine the management objectives detected in the information sources in order to pre-assign a management category.

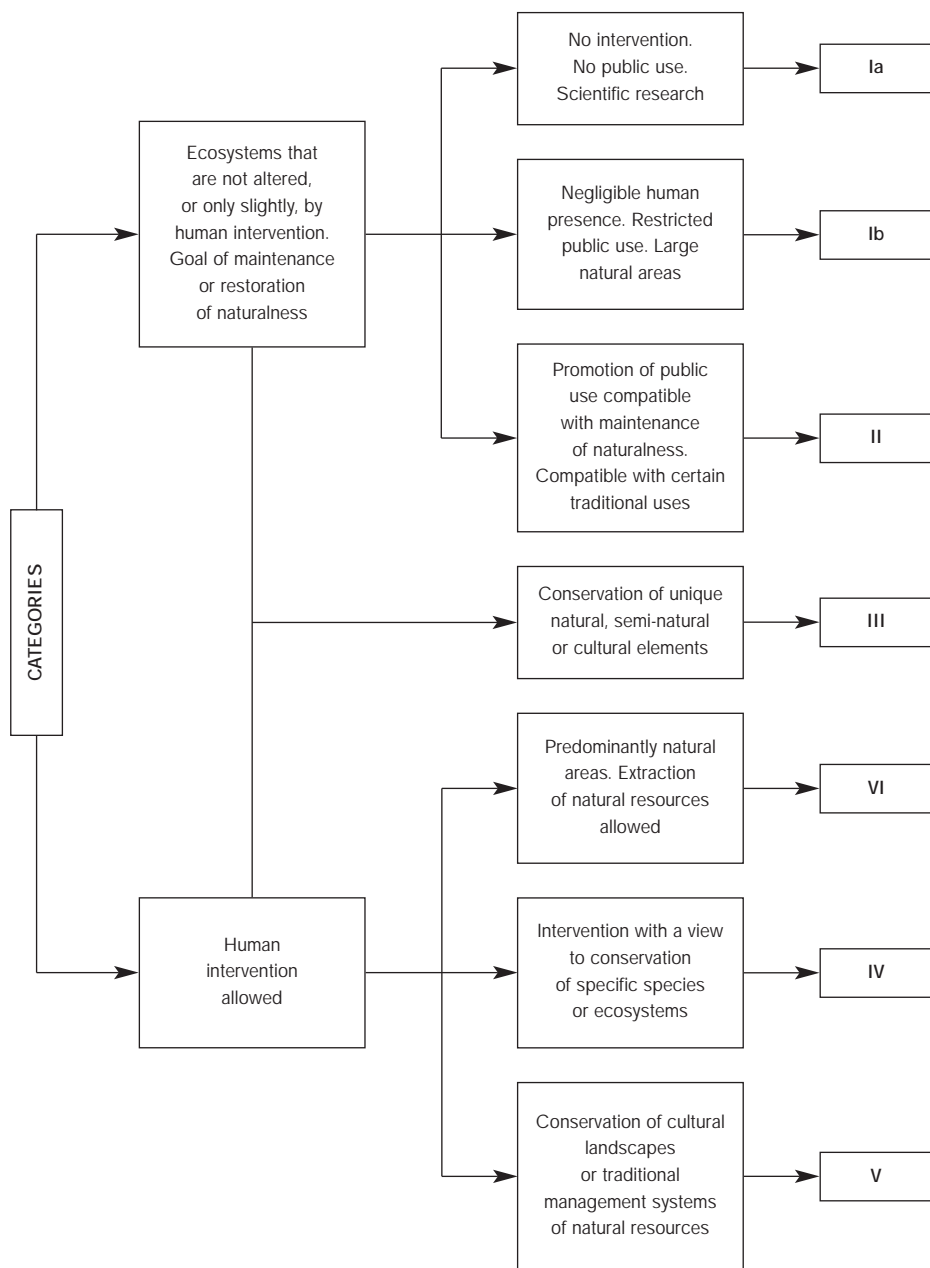


Figure 1. Key for the pre-assignment of management categories (produced using IUCN data [IUCN, 1994]).

The result of this phase is the provisional assignment of a management category.

Box 2. Objectives associated with the different IUCN management categories IUCN (IUCN, 1994)

CATEGORY Ia Strict Nature Reserve

- to preserve habitats, ecosystems and species in as undisturbed a 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.
-

CATEGORY Ib Wilderness Area

- 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 life style.
-

CATEGORY II National Park

- to protect natural and scenic areas of national and international significance for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational or tourist purposes;
 - to perpetual, 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 will maintain the area in a natural or near natural state;
 - to eliminate and thereafter prevent exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation;
 - 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.
-

CATEGORY III Natural Monument

- 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.
-

CATEGORY IV Habitat/Species Management Area

- to secure and maintain the habitat conditions necessary to protect significant species, Levels 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.
-

CATEGORY V Protected Landscape/Seascape

- 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).

CATEGORY VI Managed Resource Protected Area

- 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

Table 3. Matrix of the management objectives of the different IUCN management categories (IUCN, 1994)

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE	CATEGORIES							
	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI	
Scientific research	1	3	2	2	2	2	3	
Wilderness protection	2	1	2	3	3	–	2	
Preservation of species and genetic diversity	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	
Maintenance of environment services	2	1	1	–	1	2	1	
Protection of specific natural/cultural features	–	–	2	1	3	1	3	
Tourism and recreation	–	2	1	1	3	1	3	
Education	–	–	2	2	2	2	3	
Sustainable use of resources from natural ecosystems	–	3	3	–	2	2	1	
Maintenance of cultural/tradicional attributes	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	

1 Primary objective.

2 Secondary objective.

3 Potentially applicable objective.

– Not applicable.

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

This last phase involves definitively determining the IUCN management category for the protected area by comparing the management objectives identified for it with those of the IUCN categories themselves. However, any category assigned must be compatible with the declaration criteria; the results of phase II must therefore be taken into account.

Table 4 shows the attributes of the different IUCN categories with respect to management objectives. This table should be used to confirm or modify the management category assigned in phase III.

Table 4. Management objectives defining each of the IUCN management categories (produced using IUCN data [IUCN, 1994]).

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT							
1 Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2 Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3 Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4 Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5 Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6 Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT							
7 Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8 Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9 Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10 Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES							
11 Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12 Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13 Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14 Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING							
15 Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3

1 Primary objective.

2 Secondary objective.

3 Optional objective.

– Non-applicable objective.

The management category assigned is that in which all the primary objectives of Table 3 coincide with those identified for the protected area (as long as there are no contradictions with the secondary objectives).

The aim of this phase is to verify the initial assignment performed in previous phases, and in particular:

- To determine whether the management of the protected area adjusts to the initially assigned management category, and to identify points of conflict.
- To establish the basic guidelines for defining management objectives in the case of areas where no management planning documents are available (such as Natura 2000 sites).

3.2. Remarks on some key concepts

The following lines discuss some key concepts used in this document, to help clarify their meaning.

Protected area

A protected area is, according to the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), a “geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives”.

In accordance with the IUCN definition (1994), a protected area is “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”

The Durban Accord (2003) adds an important nuance to this definition as it also considers that protected areas are an essential instrument to achieve synergies between conservation, the maintenance of life-sustaining systems and the promotion of sustainable development, beyond the limits of the protected space. The socio-economic development of the local populations is a specific goal of many protected areas.

Therefore, if the priority goal is conservation and there is a legal instrument for its designation, we are facing a protected natural space.

Naturalness

The concept of naturalness is one of the foundations of the IUCN classification system: the IUCN guidelines refer in various categories to naturalness, integrity, or ecosystems governed by the forces of nature. Naturalness is an essential attribute of Categories I and II, secondary in Categories III and IV (as they may or may not be natural sites), partial in Category VI (2/3 of the area must be natural) and not applicable in Category V, which is characterized by modified ecosystems.

Its interpretation is not always simple, however. Theoretically, naturalness refers to the extent by which the ecosystem has diverged from certain ideal or “climatic” conditions. However, most ecosystems have been transformed by Man over millennia, landscape comprises a mosaic of mature ecosystems along with secondary communities, together with extensive areas of cultivated vegetation. For

this reason, the application of the concept of naturalness is complex, as it is difficult to establish which ecosystems have suffered interventions (and to what extent) and which have not.

Even an ideal landscape, without human intervention, would also be formed by a mosaic of ecosystems with a different degree of maturity: more mature communities would live alongside others that are pioneers or immature, due to “natural” disturbances such as forest fires, the pressure of grazing animals, etc. (Terradas, 2001)

A number of authors have proposed the use of the energy flow through ecosystems be used in their characterisation. This would permit differences to be drawn between ecosystems activated by the sun that are not subsidised (ecosystems that function entirely on solar energy, such as high altitude ecosystems) from those that are naturally subsidised (i.e., that receive external inputs, such as estuaries), and from ecosystems subsidised by human activity (those whose structure and function depend on anthropic energy sources, from agroecosystems maintained by human work, to urban ecosystems activated by fuels) (Odum, 1993).

The concept of integrity has recently begun to be used instead of naturalness. Ecological integrity refers to the presence in the ecosystem of all its characteristic elements and processes, implying a greater capacity of the system to process matter and energy, better organization and efficacy in the transfer and degradation of energy and the ability to resist disturbances. By definition the maximum integrity excludes human activities that dissipate energy and disorganize the ecosystem. When we consider the ability of modified ecosystems to provide environmental services, we refer to “ecosystem health” (Westra et al. 2000).

The development of specific indicators allowing the degree of integrity to be measured is still far from its definitive resolution by the scientific community. In fact, the debate on what integrity or naturalness means may hinder progress with the process of applying categories.

The IUCN's definition of naturalness (IUCN, 1994) is: *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.* The difficulty in applying this definition led to the proposal that naturalness should be used to reflect those

places “where land use has ceased and ecological succession is now underway (EUROPARC and IUCN 1999).

The European Union’s Habitat Directive refers to the need to maintain habitats in a state of favourable conservation. The conservative status of a natural habitat will be taken as “favourable” when (Article 1):

- its natural range and areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined in (i);

The strict application of the concept of naturalness would render it impossible to use the management category system in some parts of the world, except with respect to Category V. In the present document, naturalness is used in the sense of ecosystems with no human presence or whose structure (species composition, vertical and horizontal structure) and functioning (flows, essential processes) is not conditioned by human activity.

Traditional use of resources

In many cases (always areas falling into Category V), the use of resources is indivisibly linked to the conservation of biodiversity and to the maintenance of the structure and function of ecosystems and/or their special patterns.

The need to integrate the local populations in the conservation and management of protected areas has had as a consequence the need to extend the definition of protected area, in order to overcome the traditional disjunctive between untouched protected areas versus the rest of the unprotected territory.

Nowadays it is generally accepted that certain types of resource use may be compatible with conservation, if not essential. The protection categories do not therefore exclude entirely the use of resources, but rather this may be acceptable under certain circumstances. In the case of Category II, although the management goal is to eliminate the exploitation of natural resources, certain types of low-intensity exploitation that do not imply a notable alteration of the structure and/or function of the ecosystems (and therefore a loss of naturalness) may be permissible.

At the opposite extreme, in Category V, the use of resources is indissolubly linked to conservation, provided that such use has cultural or traditional components.

Ecosystem services

Functioning of natural ecosystems provides many benefits to society. These include supply services (provision of water, farming produce, stock breeding, lumber production, fibres, fuel, etc), regulation services (maintenance of the composition of the atmosphere, climate control, limitation of run-off, availability of clean water, absorption of pollutants, disease control, etc.), life support services (photosynthesis and primary production, soil formation, bio-geochemical services, decomposition processes, etc.) and cultural services (aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational or spiritual values, among others) (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. 2005).

In order to preserve the benefits of ecosystems such as, for example, soil fertility, erosion control, fostering water uptake or increasing CO₂ sequestering, large extensions of natural ecosystems are necessary, thus introducing a question of size into the categories primarily aimed at the conservation of ecosystem services: especially Categories Ib and II.

Representativeness

The criterion of representativeness is based on the idea that a system of protected areas must cover the range or spectrum of variation of the ecosystems or environmental systems present in the territory (Margules, 1989; Noss, 1993). The criterion of representativeness allows the selection of the best examples of each ecosystem, avoiding redundancy (repetition of sites representing the same environment) or the absence certain natural systems.

For the application of this criterion it is necessary to have a regionalization or subdivision of the territory into homogenous regions and the subsequent selection of spaces to be preserved in each one.

The criterion of representativeness is especially relevant for the definition of Category II.

Uniqueness

Uniqueness refers to the scarcity or singular nature of an element of the territory.

The criterion of uniqueness is particularly relevant in Category III, where it is generally applied to geomorphological elements, although it can also be applied to rare species or even individual specimens (such as trees).

Other categories may contain unique elements within them, but in this case the principle of considering the area's priority management goals is applied.

Management activities

This refers to the set of actions intended to achieve the goals defined for a protected natural space.

The management activities may refer to direct actions by managers on a species or habitat (for example, placing feeding areas, planting trees, controlling water level in wetlands). Other management activities may include also the promotion of socio-economic activities at the territorial scale over which the manager has only indirect control (agreements with farmers, subsidies for environmentally-friendly practices, etc.), but which have an impact on the conservation goals (maintenance of species or habitats associated with these practices).

Active intervention is prohibited under Category Ia. In the rest, it may vary from actions intended to maintain or recover the naturalness of the ecosystems (Categories Ib, II and VI) to the maintenance of specific species or habitats (Category IV) or traditional usage systems (Category V).

3.3. Interpretation of IUCN management categories in Spain

Based on the analysis of the system of categories made in this document, an interpretation and definition of the management categories is provided for Spain, as an example. Some comments of regional or national interest are given, along with some guidelines for its application.

Category Ia

An area occupied by ecosystems only slightly altered by human action, if at all. Intended for the strict conservation of ecosystems, without active intervention, in

which the natural ecological processes and disturbance regimes are respected. The main use for these sites is scientific research. Public use is banned or, if there is any, it should only be authorized in large reserves, restricted to well-marked paths, over a small part of the protected space.

Category Ib

An area occupied by ecosystems only slightly altered by human action, if at all. Intended for the conservation of large natural areas, for the maintenance of environmental services. The non-intervention principle is not a priority but may co-exist with management activities intended to maintain or recover the naturalness conditions (restoration of ecosystems).

Exceptionally it may be compatible with use of the resources for the subsistence of the local populations, providing that this does not notably affect the structure and function of the ecosystems.

Very low-intensity public use allowing the “enjoyment of solitude” and the maintenance of naturalness conditions.

This category may be difficult to apply in Spain, as there are no really large natural spaces. The planning or management instruments must place explicit restrictions on public use and state the goal of conserving natural ecosystems.

Category II

An area designated for the conservation of ecosystems with a high degree of naturalness, or in which there are management activities aimed at achieving this. Explicitly designated by the criterion of representativeness of their ecosystems or species, they often form part of larger networks. The goal of encouraging public use aimed at environmental education and compatible with the maintenance of the naturalness of the ecosystems is essential in this category. It may be compatible with certain types of traditional use of resources when these do not imply any transformation of the ecosystems.

The absence of entirely natural ecosystems in Europe makes it difficult to apply this category strictly. Category II may be considered for those spaces designated for the conservation of natural or slightly-altered ecosystems, with restrictions on resource-extracting activities and public use as a decisive factor. Some areas under Category II have suffered intense

extractive activities in the past (i.e. forestry) but are now managed for recovering naturalness, both by ecosystem restoration or by non-intervention.

The planning and management instruments must make explicit reference to the public use management model and the restrictions on the use of resources. Many parks and almost all the national parks can be classified within this category. The goal of the socio-economic development of the local populations is generally common in these spaces, associated with recreation and tourism and frequently through the designation of areas of socio-economic influence.

Category III

An area designated for the conservation of unique elements, such as outstanding geomorphological features, unique enclaves or natural elements (including species or habitats). The criterion of naturalness is secondary in this category, as there must also be cultural elements alongside the natural elements. They may be small areas, although they should also have a wider area of influence or a buffer area.

Its goals may include the promotion of public use (they may receive a large number of visitors) or the socio-economic development of the surrounding populations, through the benefits received by the local populations from the protected area (e.g. tourism).

This concept tends to be applied in Spain to the protection of geomorphological elements (caves, volcanic manifestations, geological faults or folds, cliffs) or unique natural elements (hundred-year-old trees).

Category IV

An area intended for the conservation of species or habitats, through the active intervention of the authorities responsible for the administration and management of the space. The criterion of naturalness is secondary in this category, as it may be applied both to areas with certain degree of alteration and even to artificial ecosystems of interest for certain species (for example, reservoirs of interest for water birds).

Interest for specific species or habitats and even active intervention may be found in other categories (for example, Category II), but in these cases consideration must be given to the main purpose of the designation and the major management goals.

The goal of socio-economic development and the use of natural resources are not incompatible with this category provided that it is subordinated to the main goal. These area may also have public use goals.

Two situations may be considered:

Category IV a: management interventions refer to direct actions on species or habitats included in the designation.

Examples of application might be artificial wetlands in which the water level is managed with a view to favouring certain species, ecosystems that have to be maintained artificially, for example lakes that suffer from clogging and need to be dredged, species for which supplementary feeding is provided, strengthening of populations, control of competitors, etc.

Category IV b: the interventions are not strictly direct measures on species or habitats, but are carried out indirectly, through the encouragement in the landscape of human activities that keep it in the proper conditions to allow the survival of the habitats or species referred to in the designation. The main difference with Category V is that these systems cannot be considered traditional and have no associated cultural value.

In Spain, there are many spaces of interest for birdlife, where it is essential to maintain agricultural activities, promoted through subsidies to farmers, or some other types of measures aimed at keeping the population in place and preserving socio-economic activity. An example of this might be the Special Protection Areas (for Birds) on the cereal plains of Castile.

Category V

An area intended for the conservation of cultural landscapes, which are the result of traditional systems for the use of natural resources, and which are responsible of the maintenance of high natural values, often a high degree of species diversity. This category is defined by the continuity of this traditional use associated with socio-economic development and the promotion of tourism and recreation. It may contain unique natural or cultural elements or even enclaves of well-preserved ecosystems, but the dominant management goal criterion must be applied.

This concept may be widely used in Spain. Most of the "parks" could be included within this category, particularly the "dehesa" landscapes and other traditional agroecosystems.

Category VI

An area characterized mostly by natural ecosystems (at least two thirds), with the main goal of ensuring the protection and long-term maintenance of biological diversity, but where extractive and productive activities are allowed, in a compatible way with conservation goals.

This category is unlikely to be applicable in Spain, as it is difficult to find terrestrial areas in which both these circumstances occur: a predominantly natural area allowing productive activities. However, it might have wide application in Marine Reserves.

3.4. Lessons learned from the use of the proposed procedure and proposals for the revision of the category system

The proposed procedure was initially tested in 25 protected areas in Spain (Table 5; Figure 2) before being passed on to an international network of collaborating teams. In total 38 protected areas in Europe, America and Africa (Table 6) were examined. Eighteen cases are described in the second part of this document.

Table 5. Areas where IUCN management categories were assigned in Spain

LEGAL STATUS	NAME	REGION
Parque Natural	Sierra de Aracena y Picos de Aroche	Andalucía
Parque Natural	Doñana	Andalucía
Parque Nacional	Ordesa y Monte Perdido	Aragón
Reserva Natural Manejada	Galachos del la Alfranca de Pastriz, la Cartuja y El Burgo de Ebro	Aragón
Parque Natural	Moncayo	Aragón
Reserva Natural Integral	Muniellos	Asturias
Monumento Natural	Cueva del Lloviu	Asturias
Reserva de la Biosfera	Menorca	Baleares
Reserva Natural Especial	Malpais de La Rasca	Canarias
Parque Rural	Anaga	Canarias
Parque Natural	Dunas de Liencres	Cantabria
ZEPa	Tierra de Campiñas	Castilla y León
Parque Nacional	Aigüestortes i Estany Sant Maurici	Cataluña
Parc Natural	Cadi-Moixeró	Cataluña
Parc Natural	Aiguamolls de l'Empordà	Cataluña
Parc Natural	Alt Pirineu	Cataluña
Parque Regional	Cursos bajos de los ríos Manzanares y Jarama	Madrid
Parque Natural	Cumbre, Circo y Lagunas de Peñalara	Madrid
Parque Regional	Cuenca Alta del Manzanares	Madrid
Parque Regional	Curso medio de río Guadarrama	Madrid
Parque Regional	Sierra Espuña	Murcia
Natura 2000 (SCI)	Sierra de Leyre	Navarra
Paisaje Protegido	Montes de la Valdorva	Navarra
Reserva de la Biosfera	Urdabai	País Vasco
Parque Natural	Lagunas de la Mata y Torrevieja	Valencia

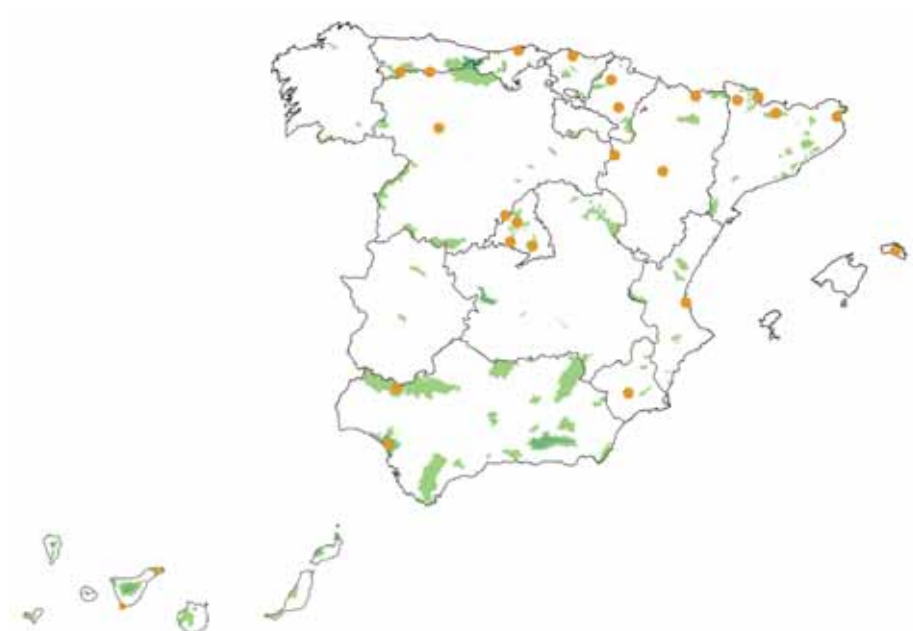


Figure 2. Areas where IUCN management categories were assigned in Spain.

Table 6. Protected areas in Europe, Latin America and North Africa where IUCN management categories were assigned.

LEGAL STATUS	NAME	COUNTRY
Parc Natural Comunal	Les Valls del Comapedrosa	Andorra
Reserva Natural Marina	Islas Habibas	Algeria
Parque Nacional Marino	El Kala	Algeria
Parque Nacional	Torres del Paine	Chile
Parque Nacional	Tortuguero	Costa Rica
Parque Nacional	Galápagos	Ecuador
Reserva Marina	Galápagos	Ecuador
Área Silvestre	Pöyrisjärvi	Finland
Parque Nacional	Urho Kekkonen	Finland
National Recreational Area	Teijo	Finland
Reserva Natural	Rosh Haniqra-Akhziv	Israel
Reserva Natural	Estero e Isla Juan Venado	Nicaragua
Parque Nacional Marino	Zembra y Zembretta	Tunisia

The analysis of the results obtained allows the following general conclusions⁵ to be drawn and recommendations to be made regarding the revision of the category system:

- Categorisation using an internationally accepted system is a tool of great interest and is a basic requirement for the maintenance of a common reference framework. It allows information to be shared and helps show society the role played by protected areas.
- A protected area cannot be assigned a management category from a cursory examination; rather, the categories and the management objectives of the protected area must be carefully reviewed.
- It is essential that the management category assignment system be associated with a systematic, reliable and repeatable procedure.
- The complexity of some protected areas in terms of their management objectives and zoning etc. means that experience of managing the protected area in question is an essential complement to documentary sources of information, especially when the area has no well developed planning instruments.

Any procedure for assigning categories based on the use of objective criteria must take into account the following:

- One of the main difficulties in assigning categories is the inadequate definition in legal documents of the values of an area that inspired the declaration of its protected status. In addition, management objectives are often less than perfectly defined. Vague or very wide-ranging management objectives make it difficult to use the assignment procedure with rigour.
- This problem is particularly important when dealing with areas for which no formal declaration of protection has been made (e.g., a laws or decree), especially so when dealing with private protected areas and areas protected by a local population (IUCN, 2005; Mitchell, 2007; Borrini-Feyerabend and Dudley, 2007). Such cases require the availability of documents that explain the obligations of those responsible for management in line with certain objectives. However, it should be remembered that the type of government that may exist is independent of all management objectives.

The development of a clear and repeatable IUCN category assignment methodology requires an in-depth analysis of the criteria that differentiate each

5. Includes the conclusions of the workshop "How can we improve the process of assignment of protected areas to categories?" IUCN Protected Areas Categories Summit. Almeria, 7-11 May 2007.

category. In the development of the methodology proposed in this document, the way in which the IUCN category system documentation was actually written was responsible for a number of difficulties. For example:

- The basic IUCN documents need to clearly define concepts such as “naturalness” or “traditional use”, and to update certain concepts in line with new scientific knowledge (integrity, ecosystem health, ecosystem services).
- The way in which the criteria used to define the categories are currently written means they are not always used systematically in all categories, or that different terms are used synonymously (wilderness – areas of ecological integrity – areas showing naturalness). All categories should be defined in a consistent manner, based on the same set of defining criteria.
- Some criteria are applicable to any category and are therefore of little use for discrimination purposes (e.g., the role of scientific research or the provision of environmental services).
- Some categories are better defined than others. Not all categories are defined by the same number of primary objectives, and some differ very little; in particular categories Ia, Ib, IV and VI need to be better defined.
- The importance of the size of the protected area is not resolved in a satisfactory manner, especially with respect to Category II. It is not clear whether very small protected areas or those with an important public use component can be included in this category. The concept of “complete ecosystems” used to define this category is confused and very difficult to use in practice.
- Category VI areas requires 2/3 of the area to show naturalness. Similar requirements could be introduced into all categories.
- The management objectives table is a very useful tool but in its actual format it does not perform its function very well; no clear relationship is maintained with the text defining the categories.
- A number of management objectives in the table are not mentioned in the text (and vice versa), and the actual writing defining certain objectives could lead to confusion. For example, the difference between “protection of wild areas” and “preservation of species” is unclear.
- The difference between ‘primary’, ‘secondary’ and ‘potentially applicable’ objectives is not formally established
- The matrices proposed in this methodology are of great help in the systematic use of criteria defining the categories. The relationship between tables, criteria matrices and the text defining the categories needs to be made very clear.

The assignment of a category to some protected areas can, on occasion, be difficult – a consequence of the characteristics of the biogeographic region in

question or of the cultural context of those who actually assign the categories. For example:

- Some concepts can be interpreted differently in different cultural contexts. The perception of what makes an unaltered ecosystem can differ depending on regional and cultural contexts.
- The concept of naturalness is different in different parts of the world. For example, the term "*wilderness*" has no translation in many languages. Given the evident need to maintain areas free of human interference, a definition of naturalness needs to be produced and the use of ambiguous terms avoided.

Some types of protected area do not fit into the current system, for example:

- Some areas are declared protected given their importance to certain species or types of habitat, but in which human activity (generally agriculture/stock raising) is necessary for their maintenance. The resource use systems of many of these areas cannot be considered traditional nor to have any cultural or ecological value (for example large areas of cereal crops under mechanised cultivation).
- There are many areas of great ecological interest where resources are extracted in a form that cannot be considered strictly natural (and therefore do not fall into Category VI) and which do not represent traditional cultural systems (and therefore cannot fall into Category V). Examples are agricultural/forestry/stock raising areas or certain agroecosystems with low energy inputs.
- It is difficult to assign a category to areas in the process of abandonment, where a condition of naturalness has yet not been reached, and where no management activities are practised. Such areas are quite common in Europe.
- It may therefore be a good idea to contemplate a margin of flexibility in the category system that can permit its adaptation to different realities via agreed and defined procedures. The simplest option would be to maintain the current system of six categories for international homologation but with hierarchical subdivisions for use at the national or regional level.

Clear distinction between the management categories requires that:

- their definition should make reference to three complementary features:
 - declaration criteria: the values that inspired the declaration of the area's protected status
 - management objectives
 - strategies or means of attaining objectives
- These three groups of features should be clearly differentiated and characterised by coherent sets of attributes. Different combinations will be characteristic of different management categories.

- The names and legal statuses of protected areas designated by different countries imply no relationship with any determined IUCN management category.
- The use of verifiable, objective information sources is vital (legal documents, approved management plans etc.) since there are often great discrepancies between the objectives set out in planning and declaration documents and their interpretation by managers.

The final assignment of a management category should be accompanied by a process of external, independent validation. However, the knowledge of an area's managers is necessary in any correct assignment, especially when planning or declaration instruments are poorly developed.

The assignment procedure described in this document could be a useful tool:

- It facilitates the use of the criteria that allow management categories to be assigned.
- The procedure has been used by professionals in several protected areas and was found an efficient tool for focusing discussion on the process of identifying objectives.
- This procedure can also be used as a tool to actually define management objectives in areas declared protected but which as yet have no planning documents.

4 Use of the Proposed Assignment Procedure. Case Studies

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The following pages describe a number of case studies where IUCN categories were assigned by a network or collaborating teams following the proposed procedure. Different types of protected area with different management objectives are represented.

Following the previously outlined phases, documentary information sources were collected for each area, declaration criteria and management objectives were identified from them, and the attributes proposed in the Declaration Criteria and Management Objective Tables and Category Pre-assignment Key were evaluated.

Bosque de Muniellos Integral Natural Reserve

Legal status: Reserva Natural Integral

Name: Bosque de Muniellos

Year of declaration: 2002

Area: 5,488 ha

Country: Spain



Phase I. Information gathering

- Law 9/2002, 22 October 2002. Declaration of Muniellos Integral Natural Reserve
- Resolution, 18 January 2005, public information process for the First Management Plan for the Muniellos Integral Natural Reserve.

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria extracted from the declaration Law

Section 3. Purpose

The purpose of the declaration of the Muniellos Integral Natural Reserve is the strict maintenance of the natural ecosystems existing in the area and the preservation of the integrity of the autochthonous plant and animal communities in the area, as well as the protection and maintenance of the biodiversity and genetic resources these values entail, by means of the fostering of scientific research.

Section 4. Protection regime

1. Within the scope of the Reserve it is prohibited to carry out any action that consumes natural resources, with the possibility of authorizing only activities related to scientific research and environmental education providing that they are compatible with the protection of the Reserve's ecosystem.
2. Actions undertaken for the conservation, protection, regeneration, recovery and improvement of the habitats of the Reserve, as well as the maintenance of its plant and animal populations, may only be carried out by the Regional Council office competent for the management of natural spaces.

- Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion. 2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion. – Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINAR ASSIGNMENT: Category I – II – (VI)

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINAR ASSIGNMENT: Category Ib

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives extracted from management plan:

As indicated in section 17 of the Protected Areas Act (Regional Law 5/1991 of the Principality of Asturias) and in the Natural Resources Planning of Asturias, the Integral Natural Reserves are natural areas declared with a view to protecting the ecosystems, communities or biological elements that, due to their rarity, fragility, importance or uniqueness, deserve special valuation, prohibiting the exploitation of resources in them, except where, for research, educational or conservation purposes, this is allowed by means of a prior administrative authorization.

The purpose of the declaration of this natural space is the strict maintenance of the natural ecosystems existing in the area and the preservation of the integrity of the autochthonous plant and animal communities in the area, as well as the protection and maintenance of

the biodiversity and genetic resources these values entail, by means of the fostering of scientific research into them.

General goals of the Muniellos Integral Natural Reserve:

- a) Preserve the natural ecosystems within the scope of the Integral Natural Reserve, maintaining the basic environmental processes and preserving the existing geological and biological resources.
- b) Contribute to the conservation of the biological communities, the threatened species of flora and fauna and genetic diversity, as well as the preservation of natural habitats existing within the scope of the Reserve.
- c) Promote within the scope of the Reserve and its setting the development of scientific and applied research programmes.
- d) Encourage the interest of society in the conservation of nature through the development of educational and interpretation activities, whether inside the Reserve or in its surroundings.

General management guidelines:

1. Prohibit the exploitation of resources, except where, for research, educational or conservation purposes, this is allowed by means of a prior administrative authorization.
2. Monitor all the human activities with an impact on the physical and biological settings that may be developed within the scope of the Reserve.
3. Promote such actions as may be considered necessary for the conservation, protection, regeneration, recovery, restoration and improvement of the habitats within the Reserve and the maintenance of their plant and animal populations.
4. Favour research, facilitating the means for it to be conducted and co-ordinating the different lines of work.
5. Develop environmental education programmes on the natural setting of the Reserve and its context.



• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

		la	lb	II	III	IV	V	VI
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT								
1	Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2	Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3	Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4	Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5	Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6	Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT								
7	Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8	Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9	Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10	Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES								
11	Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13	Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14	Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING								
15	Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3
1	Primary objective.							
2	Secondary objective.							
3	Optional objective.							
–	Non-applicable objective.							

The criteria laid out in the declaration law clearly identify the natural character of its ecosystems; this allows the area an initial assignment of Category I or II or even Category VI status. However, the management objectives exclude the use of resources, thus Category VI does not apply.

The attributes of Category Ib contemplate management activities orientated towards the restoration of naturalness; thus, non-intervention in its strict sense is not contemplated (unlike in Category Ia). The maintenance of ecosystem services in the category definitions may cover the objective of maintaining biodiversity and genetic resources mentioned in the area's management plan.

The use of natural resources is forbidden. The only authorised activities are scientific and educational. Only a small number of persons are allowed access, and these may only proceed on foot along specially marked trails.

The WDPA assigns the area Category V status – quite different to that assigned in this exercise.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category Ib, Wilderness Area.
Protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection



Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park

Legal status: Parque Nacional
Name: Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici
Year of declaration: 1955
Area: 14,119 ha
Country: Spain



Phase I. Information gathering

- Decree 21 October 1955, creating the Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park.
- Decree 234/1996, 5 July 1996, enlarging the Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici Natural Park.
- Decree 39/2003, 4 February 2003, approving the Management Plan for the Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici Natural Park.

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria extracted from the declaration Law
It will be the responsibility of the Board to co-operate in the establishment and fostering of the Park, and to carry out such acts and measures as may be considered pertinent for advertising purposes and attracting domestic and foreign tourists.
- Declaration criteria extracted from the enlargement Decree
This national park contains a magnificent representation of geological formations, glacier phenomena from the Quaternary era, and also the flora and fauna of the Pyrenees; and landscapes of extraordinary beauty, woods, meadows, fauna and flora. The adjoining area, generically called Caldes, and currently included in the peripheral protection area, contains ecological and landscape values as significant as those of the national park itself. In this territory, through Decree 82 dated February 9th, 1993, approving the Management Plan for the Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park, certain areas of geomorphological, hydrological and limnological interest were defined. There are also areas of botanic, zoological and fauna interest.

- Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion.							
2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion.							
– Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category II

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category II

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives extracted from management plan:

The Management Plan of the Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici National Park is intended to:

- Ensure the maintenance of the natural processes and the restoration of resources in the Park, with the reduction and elimination of the impacts generated by activities and actions that are incompatible with the nature of the Park.
- Introduce the measures to achieve the protection of the park's cultural values.
- Preserve the natural resources (gea, water, flora, fauna and landscape).
- Ensure the conservation of the wild plant and animal species and the natural processes in the National Park.
- Develop the basic lines to define the system for public use and organization of visits compatible with the Park's conservation.

- f) Encourage the sustainable development of the districts involved, with the integration of the area's population in the activities generated by the National Park, in order to make the protection of nature and the conservation of the natural resources compatible with social and economic development.
- g) Promote education, dissemination and public awareness of the natural and ecological values and their significance, in order to enhance greater public sensitivity.
- h) Promote research and the development of studies of the natural setting, as well as those related with human activities, the effects of management and the ethnological and cultural heritage.
- i) Strengthen its relations with the rest of the national parks and protected areas in the international, national or regional level.
- j) Achieve international recognition of the Park by the bodies with responsibility for the conservation of nature.
- k) Promote the enlargement of the National Park in the future, as well as the acquisition of additional land, with scientific and conservation criteria prevailing over others, and taking into account the availability of funding.
- l) Structure a technical management team under an operational structure, with the establishment of a flexible system for action and administration, complemented with the Park's own wardens.



• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT							
1 Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2 Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3 Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4 Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5 Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6 Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT							
7 Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8 Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9 Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10 Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES							
11 Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12 Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13 Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14 Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING							
15 Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3

1 Primary objective.
2 Secondary objective.
3 Optional objective.
– Non-applicable objective.

The information provided in the declaration documents makes reference to the representativeness of its ecosystems and geological formations, and the interest in its fauna and flora. The degree of naturalness is not explicitly mentioned but it may be supposed high from the type of ecosystems present and the area's location.

The correspondence between the management objectives of the management plan and those contemplated by Category II is very strong. Among the primary objectives of Category II are the maintenance of natural ecosystems, the encouragement of public use, education and research. The objective of maintaining natural resources could be described as the maintenance of ecosystem services. This national park has been intensely used in many ways, but currently its management is geared towards the recovery of its naturalness (e.g., non-intervention with respect to the forest mass, leaving standing deadwood etc.) The socioeconomic development of the population within its area of influence is also encouraged.

The WDPA has assigned this area Category II status.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: CATEGORY II, National Park.
Protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation



Cueva del Lloviu Partial Natural Reserve

Legal status: Reserva Natural Parcial

Name: Cueva del Lloviu

Year of declaration: 1995

Area: 68 ha

Country: Spain



Phase I. Information gathering

- Decree 681/1995, 27 April 1995, declaring the Cueva del Lloviu Partial Natural Reserve

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria extracted from the declaration Law

Taking into account the importance of certain natural caves in the Principality of Asturias as a habitat for endemic species of invertebrates and as a refuge for colonies of threatened cheiropterans and valuing other pertinent natural and cultural elements, the Regional Network of Protected Areas, defined in the Natural Resources Planning, approved by Decree 38 dated May 19th, 1994, considers the protection of the caves of Cueva Rosa, Las Caldas, Lloviu and Sidrón under the category of Partial Natural Reserves proposing that they be catalogued as protected areas with their own legal identity.

The Cueva del Lloviu, also known as the Cueva de Peón, has a high degree of geological interest due to the type of substrate involved: Jurassic limestone. Furthermore, the presence of five species of bats inside it, namely *Rhinolophus euryale*, *R. ferrum-equinum*, *R. hipposideros*, *Miniopterus shreibersi* and *Myotis nattereti*, some of which form large colonies, give it great natural value, including the description here of a new insect species, the *Speogeus diegoi* beetle.

• Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion. 2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion. – Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Categories III – IV

Phase III. Pre-assignment key
Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINAR ASSIGNMENT: Category III

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives extracted from declaration Decree.

The general goals pursued with the declaration are as follows:

- a) Protect the biological, geological, landscape and historic or cultural resources existing within the scope of the Reserve.
- b) Preserve the basic biological processes, with special attention to the underground ecosystems and their dynamics and the species of cheiropterans using this habitat, and those catalogued in particular, as well as the protection of other species of great scientific interest.
- c) Contribute to the protection of archaeological heritage in co-ordination with its own sectorial regulations.
- d) The regulation of uses, particularly public use, in cases where these are compatible with the general protection goals.
- e) The dissemination and awareness of its values.

The regulation of uses, the guiding principles for management and the actions to be carried out in the Reserve and in its Peripheral Protection Area will be established in the Management Plan, which will be in force for four years and will contain the following determinations:

- a) The general guidelines on organization and use of the Reserve.
- b) The zoning of the Reserve, delimiting areas of different use and purpose.
- c) The criteria for the organization of activities both in the Reserve and in the area outside it.
- d) The criteria for the ensuing the fulfilment of the goals that led it to be declared as a Reserve.
- e) The economic or other forecasts necessary for installations, services and infrastructures or other actions.
- f) The management rules and actions necessary for the conservation, protection and improvement of its natural values and the maintenance of biological equilibrium.
- g) The criteria to be used as the basis for deciding on their modification or review.
- h) Any others considered necessary in accordance with the conservation purposes leading to the declaration of the Reserve.

• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

		Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
					↓			
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT								
1	Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2	Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3	Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4	Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5	Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6	Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT								
7	Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8	Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9	Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10	Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES								
11	Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13	Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14	Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING								
15	Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3
1	Primary objective.							
2	Secondary objective.							
3	Optional objective.							
–	Non-applicable objective.							

The only official information available (declaration decree) does not expressly mention the degree of naturalness of the ecosystem. Direct reference is made to the protection of species of bats and an insect. In addition, the geological value is

stressed. With the information available it is possible to discard Category V (it is not a traditional landscape) and VI (no consideration is given to the harnessing of natural resources).

The management goals refer clearly to three basic questions: the maintenance of the natural processes, carrying out management activities for the maintenance of the bat colony, and the development of public use and its associated infrastructures.

No mention is made of the compatibility between the use of natural resources, which seems to be excluded. No mention is made of a social and economic development goal except insofar as it refers to the establishment of compensation measures for the possible limitations imposed by the management plan. There are no references to research.

If the survival of the bat colony were to depend directly on management practices, it would be Category IV, but this does not seem to be the case.

Its small size, the failure to mention the conservation of environmental services and the approach to public use seem to discard Categories Ib and II.

The goal of conserving very specific, isolated and confined natural processes and ecosystems (in the cave) might make us think of a Category Ia. However, this category is totally incompatible with public use.

If we consider the cave and the colonies of bats as a unique element in the regional context, we might think of it as Category III. The protection proposed for the archaeological heritage strengthens this proposal. In addition, this category is compatible with public use.

This area has no category assigned to it in the WDPA.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category III, Natural Monument.
Protected area managed mainly for conservation
of specific natural features

Los Galachos de La Alfranca de Pastriz, La Cartuja, y El Burgo de Ebro Managed Natural Reserve

Legal status: Reserva Natural Dirigida
Name: Galachos de La Alfranca de Pastriz, La Cartuja, y El Burgo de Ebro
Year of declaration: 1991
Area: 771 ha
Country: Spain



Phase I. Information gathering

- Law 6/1998, 19 May 1998, Protected Areas Act (Aragón Region).
- Order 14 January 2002, Aragón Government, initial approval of the Natural Resources Planning of the riverside on the River Ebro (stretch from Zaragoza to Escatrón).

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria extracted from Protected Areas Act
 1. Natural Reserves are natural spaces of moderate size, declared for the purpose of protecting ecosystems, communities or biological elements deserving special consideration because of their rarity, fragility, importance or uniqueness.

In Reserves the exploitation of resources will be prohibited, except where exploitation is compatible with the conservation of the values to be protected. Generally speaking, the collection of biological or geological material will be prohibited, except where, for research or educational purposes, this is allowed by means of a prior administrative authorization.

Managed Natural Reserves are those where the declaration pursues the conservation of unique habitats, specific species or natural ecological processes of special interest. Management will be aimed at preservation and restoration, as well as the organization of those uses considered compatible. Scientific, educational and public use activities may be authorized along with the harnessing of traditional natural resources, providing that they are included within the conservation goals.

• Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion.							
2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion.							
– Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Categories II – III – IV

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINAR ASSIGNMENT: Category IVa

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives extracted from management plan:

CONSERVATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM'S FUNCTIONALITY

Maintaining a stretch of river representative of its original conditions.
Preserving the existing gullies and riverbeds. Delaying or detaining the clogging process.
Contributing to the bird migration process.
Conserving reedbeds, wetlands, bushy stratum and riverside vegetation.
Improving the capacity of the Ebro's ecological corridor.

RESTORATION OF ECOSYSTEMS

Recovering the original ecosystem on the floodplain. Restoring natural hydraulic dynamics.
Improving water quality conditions.
Recovering the degraded areas.

CONSERVATION OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

Conservation of species diversity.
Avoid/control exotic species.
Ensure the conservation of threatened species and their habitats.
Ensure the conservation of the species in risk of extinction: *Margaritifera auricularia*, *Blennius fluviatilis* and *Botaurus stellaris*.
Contributing to the Natura 2000 network.

USES AND HARNESSING

Conserving the river landscape.
Promoting the organized use of the natural resources.
Catalogue of the ownership status, land uses and buildings.
Indemnifying effective and unique restrictions on uses and activities.

PUBLIC USE

Encourage scientific, educational and recreational uses.
Foster public participation.



• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

		Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
						↓		
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT								
1	Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2	Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3	Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4	Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5	Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6	Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT								
7	Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8	Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9	Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10	Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES								
11	Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13	Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14	Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING								
15	Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3

1 Primary objective.

2 Secondary objective.

3 Optional objective.

– Non-applicable objective.

The special interest of this area with respect to waterfowl and the need to manage its ecosystems (e.g., preventing silting) means it could be assigned Category IV status. The uniqueness of this area, however, means it could be assigned Category III status. The need for active intervention stated in the management plan removes all doubt.

All the main and secondary objectives of Category IV are to be found within the area's management objectives; some of the latter are not specific to this category but are not incompatible with it.

This area has no category assigned to it in the WDPA.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category IV, Habitat/Species Management Area. Protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention



Tierra de Campiñas Spetial Protection Area

Legal status: Spatial Protection Area (Birds Directive)

Name: Tierra de Campiñas

Year of declaration: no formal declaration

Area: 139,444 ha

Country: Spain



Phase I. Information gathering

- Official form for designation as an Special Protection Area (SPA) for birds (Natura 2000).

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria extracted from extracted from the Natura 2000 form
Extensive plain located to the south west of Valladolid, shared with Ávila and Salamanca. Dominance of dry cereal crops (wheat, barley), with some areas of irrigated land (beetroot, corn, cereals). Presence of isolated pine groves with *Pinus pinea* and *Pinus pinaster*, and some oak woods (*Quercus rotundifolia*). Small and medium-sized lagoons all over the area. 27% of the surface area of the area currently are irrigated croplands
The breeding population of 1-2 pairs of Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) is of national importance (1% of the total population in Spain).
Important breeding population of 40-50 pairs of Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*), with regional-level importance (2% of the total population in Castilla y León), and national importance (1% of the total for Spain).
Also of interest is the breeding population of Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), with 146 pairs, with regional-level importance (10% of the total population in Castilla y León), and national importance (2% of the total for Spain) as well as internationally.
The migrant population of Common Crane (*Grus grus*), with up to 800 birds, is of international importance. The breeding population of Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*), with at least 800 males, and the over-wintering population (about 1,000 birds) are of regional, national and international importance.
The breeding population of Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*), with 2,195 specimens, is of regional importance (22% of the total population in Castilla y León), as well as national (14% of the total population in Spain) and international importance.
The breeding population of Black-bellied Sandgrouse (*Pterocles orientalis*), with 200-250 pairs (probably less by now) is of regional (23% of the total population in Castilla y León) and international importance.
The breeding population of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse (*Pterocles alchata*), with 10-15 pairs (probably less by now) is of regional importance (they represent 8 % of the total population in Castilla y León).

Also noteworthy is the large over-wintering population of Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*), with 1,500 birds in 1993, giving it national (2% of the total population over-wintering in Spain) and international importance.

The breeding population of White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), with at least 100 pairs in 1999, is of international importance.

- Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion.							
2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion.							
– Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category IV

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category IV

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives extracted from the Natura 2000 form

The existence of large areas under irrigation on the perimeter of the protected area defined indicates that actions for the improvement of the existing irrigation and the transformation of new land surfaces not exceeding 10% of the total of the area are considered compatible with the conservation goals determining its Ia declaration as an SPA. For these purposes, these transformations carried out in this way do not noticeably affect the sites in question, with regard to the provision of Section 6 point 3 of the 92/43/EEC Directive.

Similarly, the installation of industries for the transformation of agricultural and/or food products is considered to have no appreciable effect, basically if they are located in the neighbourhood of the towns.

- Assignment based on Management Objectives:

		Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
						↓		
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT								
1	Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2	Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3	Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4	Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5	Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6	Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT								
7	Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8	Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9	Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10	Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES								
11	Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13	Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14	Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING								
15	Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3

- 1 Primary objective.
- 2 Secondary objective.
- 3 Optional objective.
- Non-applicable objective.

The predominance of modified ecosystems rules out the assignment of all categories which contemplate no human intervention (I, II and VI).

The declaration of the area's protected status is based on the representativeness of the species present at the regional level, but the character of the strongly modified ecosystems impedes the assignment of Category II status. Further, though these ecosystems are modified, they cannot be considered traditional systems or systems of cultural value; therefore, Category V is not applicable either.

Since no management plan for the area is available, no formal management objectives exist. However, an analysis of the information contained in the Natura 2000 form shows that the objective of bird conservation (which inspired the declaration of protected status) is compatible with the agricultural use of the area – even its intensive use. In fact, such use is vital for maintaining the structure of the landscape necessary to the area's birds. The management of the area should therefore be orientated towards the maintenance of the agricultural practices required to achieve a good state of bird conservation.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category IV, Habitat/Species Management Area. Protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention



Sierra de Aracena y Picos de Aroche Natural Park

Legal status: Parque Natural

Name: Sierra de Aracena y Picos de Aroche

Year of declaration: 1989

Area: 186,827 ha

Country: Spain



Phase I. Information gathering

- Law 2/1989, 18 July 1989, approving the inventory of protected areas in Andalusia and establishing additional measures for their protection.
- Decree 210/2003, 15 July 2003, approving the Natural Resources Planning and the Management Plan for the Sierra de Aracena y Picos de Aroche Natural Park.
- Resolution 27 January 2004, approving the Sustainable Development Plans for the Natural Parks of Cabo de Gata-Níjar, Sierras Subbéticas and the Sierra de Aracena and Picos de Aroche).
- Decree 210/2003, 15 July 2003, approving the Natural Resources Planning and the Management Plan for the Sierra de Aracena and Picos de Aroche Natural Park.

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

The Aracena Natural Park was declared by means of Law 2/1989, which do not include any reference to declaration values. Nonetheless, some declaration criteria can be inferred from the Natural Resources Planning.

- Declaration criteria extracted from the Natural Resources Planning:
 1. Ensure continuity over time of the traditional land use in the area, cattle pasture, as an example of a landscape representing the Mediterranean region and an ecosystem of great interest, the result of a unique traditional way of dealing with the natural environment, capable of making its conservation compatible with its use.
 2. Ensure the conservation and improvement of woodlands, as an essential element for the protection of soils and as a mechanism to help reduce climate change.
 3. Restoration of degraded areas by mining.
 4. Maintaining the quality of water resources in good condition.
 5. Preserving those ecosystems and habitats containing the most interesting species of fauna and flora, particularly the habitats and species catalogued as being of Community Interest (European Union).
 6. Maintaining and improving the status of the populations of fauna and flora with special attention to those under threat.

7. Maintaining and, where appropriate, improving the quality of the landscape.
8. Ensuring the use and exploitation of the natural resources are compatible with their conservation.
9. Facilitating the generation of socio-economic conditions preventing the abandonment of rural communities and fostering their progress, promoting an economic and social use of the territory that is compatible with the conservation of the natural resources.
10. Guaranteeing the role of the location as a leisure area, bringing the population closer to an awareness and enjoyment of its natural and cultural values, through an appropriate development of public use and environmental education activities.
11. Integrating the natural and cultural heritage of the Natural Park as essential elements for progress in the sustainable development of the area.
12. Guaranteeing an adequate development of urban planning.

• Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion.							
2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion.							
– Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category V

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives extracted from management plan:
 - Conserving autochthonous forests, whether pure or mixed, for holm oaks, cork oaks and gall oaks, ensuring their rejuvenation and natural regeneration.
 - Recovering the degraded areas to prevent the occurrence of erosive phenomena.
 - Conserving and improving pastures in the dehesa areas.
 - Conserving chestnut groves as a characteristic crop in the area.
 - Conserving and maintaining riverside ecosystems as a mechanism for hydrological protection
 - Fostering the evolution of forest plantations towards irregular formations with a greater presence of leafy varieties.
 - Gradually reducing the surface area devoted to eucalyptus.
 - Establishing the appropriate mechanism for the prevention of forest fires, pests and woodland diseases.
 - Conserving the habitats of ecological interest, mainly those contained in Schedule I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC, 21 May 1992; the habitats of the fauna species listed in Schedules II and IV of the same Directive and in Schedule I of Directive 79/409/EEC 2 April 1979.
 - Conserving the habitats of ecological interest, mainly those contained in Schedule I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC 21 May 1992; the habitats of the fauna species listed in Schedules II and IV of the same Directive and in Schedule I of Directive 79/409/EEC 2 April 1979.
 - Recovering the populations of rabbit and partridge due to the important role they have both as hunting species and also for their involvement in the conservation of threatened carnivore species.
 - Allowing population control of game species.
 - Recovering agricultural areas with abandoned or marginal crops, promoting their transformation towards organic agriculture or to forests.
 - Encouraging the application of farming techniques and stock breeding practices that reduce the potential impacts of these activities on the natural setting.
 - Developing the set of programmes, services and amenities allowing appropriate public use of the Natural Park.
 - Minimizing the potential impacts that might be generated by public use.
 - Developing environmental education programmes using the natural and cultural heritage as an educational resource.
 - Minimizing and correcting the impacts that might be generated by buildings and infrastructures located or needing to be located in the park.
 - Promoting research projects with a view to facilitating park management, increase knowledge of its values, problems and possible solutions.

• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

		Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
							↓	
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT								
1	Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2	Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3	Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4	Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5	Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6	Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT								
7	Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8	Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9	Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10	Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES								
11	Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13	Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14	Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING								
15	Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3
1	Primary objective.							
2	Secondary objective.							
3	Optional objective.							
–	Non-applicable objective.							

The objectives set out in the management plan clearly contemplate all the priority attributes as well as most of the secondary attributes corresponding to Category V.

The importance given to the maintenance of cultural landscapes, socioeconomic activity (the area has a socioeconomic development plan) and public use (the area has an approved public use plan), clearly support the assignment of Category V status. This category has been assigned in the WDPa.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category V, Protected Landscape/Seascape.
Protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation
and recreation



Pöyrisjärvi Wilderness Area

Legal status: Wilderness Area

Name: Pöyrisjärvi

Year of declaration: 1988

Area: 127,473 ha

Country: Finland



Phase I. Information gathering

- Declaration Law 851 in 1988.
- Management Plan endorsed by Ministry of the Environment in 2001.

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria extracted from the declaration Law:
 1. Protection of wilderness nature: no roads, no inhabitants, large area, almost in natural state.
 2. Protection of the indigenous Sami culture.
 3. Protection of traditional livelihoods: traditional herding, subsistence hunting of the willow grouse, fishing, picking of berries and mushrooms, small-scale tourism.
 4. Multiple use of nature: small-scale subsistence hunting, fishing and picking cloudberries, recreation (but no forestry).

- Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion. 2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion. – Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category I – II – VI

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category Ib – VI

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives extracted from management plan:
 1. The traditional small-scale use of nature and natural resources can continue at the present level.
 2. Maintenance of wilderness (no permanent roads).
 3. Control of off-road traffic to prevent erosion and other effects to nature and traditional livelihoods.
 4. Protection and monitoring of threatened species and archaeological sites.
 5. Assessment of environmental and cultural impacts of the use of nature.

• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

		la	lb	II	III	IV	V	VI
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT								
1	Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2	Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3	Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4	Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5	Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6	Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT								
7	Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8	Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9	Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10	Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES								
11	Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13	Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14	Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING								
15	Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3
1	Primary objective.							
2	Secondary objective.							
3	Optional objective.							
–	Non-applicable objective.							

The main management objective of this area, which has a high degree of naturalness, is to maintain the conditions that guarantee the way of life of the Sami people. The area's natural resources are for the sole use of the indigenous population; such use should be maintained at a low level in accordance with subsistence needs.

Some of the area's management objectives may appear to match those of Category VI, e.g., allowing the sustainable use of natural resources. However, such usage is of low intensity and subject to the maintenance of the area's wilderness nature. Objectives such as those of Category V or II linked to tourism and leisure are not applicable to this area.

The area is assigned Category V status in the WDPA, but the present exercise shows Category Ib (which contemplates the conservation of large natural areas in which resource use is of low intensity and only by the local population) may be more appropriate.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category Ib, Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection



Teijo National Recreation Area

Legal status: National Recreation-Hiking Area

Name: Teijo

Year of declaration: 1991

Area: 2,600 ha

Country: Finland



Phase I. Information gathering

- Declaration Law: Declared by the Council on State in 1991 based on Recreation Law 606/1973.
- Management Plan: Management Plan endorsed by the Management Group in 2004.
- Others: Teijo NRA forms most of Natura 2000 area (FI200086).

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria extracted from the declaration Law:
 1. Accessible, natural forest, lake and peatland area for recreation and environmental education.
 2. Development of nature-based tourism.
 3. Sustainable production of timber, berries, mushrooms, fish, game etc. for recreational and other purposes of the society.
 4. Natura 2000 designation based on certain habitats and species.

- Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion. 2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion. – Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category II – IV – V

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category V – VI

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives extracted from management plan:
 1. Small-scale forest management orientated to improve biodiversity and recreational values of the area.
 2. Development of infrastructure suitable for recreation, nature observation and nature-based tourism.
 3. Active habitat management (removal of spruce) for nature conservation reasons.

• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

		Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
						↓		
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT								
1	Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2	Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3	Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4	Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5	Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6	Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT								
7	Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8	Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9	Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10	Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES								
11	Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13	Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14	Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING								
15	Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3
1	Primary objective.							
2	Secondary objective.							
3	Optional objective.							
–	Non-applicable objective.							

This area was declared under the Recreation Law 606/1973 by the Finnish government in 1991. It is not contemplated as a protected area under national legislation (even though it is managed by the State) but as an area of the 'National Hiking Network'. Nonetheless, the greater part of this area lies within the Natura 2000 Network (FI200086).

The area has a marked emphasis on public use, leisure and tourism. Forestry is permitted on a small scale.

The definitive assignment of a category is difficult in this case. The authors assign Category V status, but it is hard to see from the documents provided that any traditional or cultural practices are responsible for the area's biodiversity values or the modelling of its landscape. The area has a high level of naturalness, and its small size and the use of its natural resources would not seem to justify Category V status.

The area's declaration as part of the Natura 2000 Network indicates the importance of certain species and habitats. The objective of active habitat management and small scale forestry for improving biodiversity allows Category IV status to be assigned (the objectives of leisure and resource use are compatible).

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category IV, Habitat/Species Management Area. Protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention



Urho Kekkonen National Park

Legal status: National Park
Name: Urho Kekkonen
Year of declaration: 1983
Area: 254,897 ha
Country: Finland



Phase I. Information gathering

- Declaration Law 228 in 1983.
- 2nd Management Plan endorsed by the Ministry of the Environment in 2001.

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria extracted from the declaration Law
 1. Protection the last large, non-fragmented wilderness of forests, peatlands and fjells in Western Europe.
 2. Maintenance the natural state of primeval forests.
 3. Control the tourism and recreational use.
- Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–

- 1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion.
 2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion.
 – Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category I – II – IV – VI

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category II

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives extracted from management plan:
 1. Nature conservation (primary objective), i.e. conservation of typical and representative characteristics of the nature.
 2. Maintenance the conditions for the traditional reindeer herding without compromising the natural conservation objectives.
 3. Protection of typical fauna and flora, such as peatland avifauna and big predators (bear, wolf, wolverine, lynx).
 4. Natural ecosystem dynamics and succession.
 5. Development of cost-efficient and environmentally sound maintenance methods of the infrastructure.
 6. Maintenance of the recreational values and tradition and development of environmentally friendly behaviour of the visitors.
 7. Restriction the adverse effects of tourism to limited areas and maintenance of large natural areas without any infrastructure, by zoning.
 8. Prevention of conflicts between different uses of the park.
 9. Systematic collection of information, research and monitoring.

• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

		Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT								
1	Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2	Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3	Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4	Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5	Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6	Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT								
7	Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8	Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9	Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10	Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES								
11	Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13	Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14	Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING								
15	Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3

1 Primary objective.
2 Secondary objective.
3 Optional objective.
– Non-applicable objective.

This area can clearly be assigned Category II status based on the priority given to the conservation of the conditions of naturalness of large extensions of this area, the restriction of public use to certain zones, and the maintenance of traditional practices. Although the maintenance of ecosystem services is not explicitly mentioned in the information sources, such an objective can be inferred from the large size of the area, its high degree of naturalness, and low intensity of use etc. The interpretation of the importance of traditional and cultural uses suggests the assignment of Category V, but these practices are not essential for maintaining the area's biodiversity. Category II therefore remains appropriate. The WDPA also assigns this category.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category II, National Park. Protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation



Rosh Haniqra Natural Reserve

Legal status: Natural Reserve

Name: Rosh Haniqra

Year of declaration: 1965

Area: 440 ha

Country: Israel



Phase I. Information gathering

- Declaration law:

Law of 1963 on Natural Reserves and National Monuments. Declared protected in 1965.

- Management plan:

The preliminary management plan for the Rosh Haniqra-Akhziv Reserve includes the five areas currently protected. All are small in size and were established with different legal statuses and management models:

- Coastal Natural Reserve (Rosh Haniqra), declared in 1965, covering 432 ha, to which 22 ha were added in 1972 as a national park. Protected because of its geomorphological value (cliffs and marine caves). The main use of this area is leisure and public use. Declared as a Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) under the Barcelona Convention. Assigned IUCN Category III status.
- The Akhziv National Park (also coastal, 55 ha), the objectives of which include the conservation and interpretation of an archaeological site, the regulation of public use and leisure activities. Undetermined IUCN category.
- Marine zone bordering the above two units and the Lebanese frontier. Protected as a result of security requirements.
- Strict protection of a set of small islands about 800 m off the coast (includes a 100 m radius of surrounding water).
- Two natural reserves established by the local government, adding some 25 ha for the protection of marine turtles during egg-laying.

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria extracted from the declaration Law
 1. To make a single, larger protected area out of those already in existence, to establish a corridor along the coast, and to integrate marine areas to produce Israel's first protected marine area.
 2. To conserve the natural characteristics and biodiversity of the area.
 3. To regulate public use of the area and to allow the area to contribute to local social well-being compatible with its conservation.

• Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion. 2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion. – Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINAR ASSIGNMENT: Category II – III

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

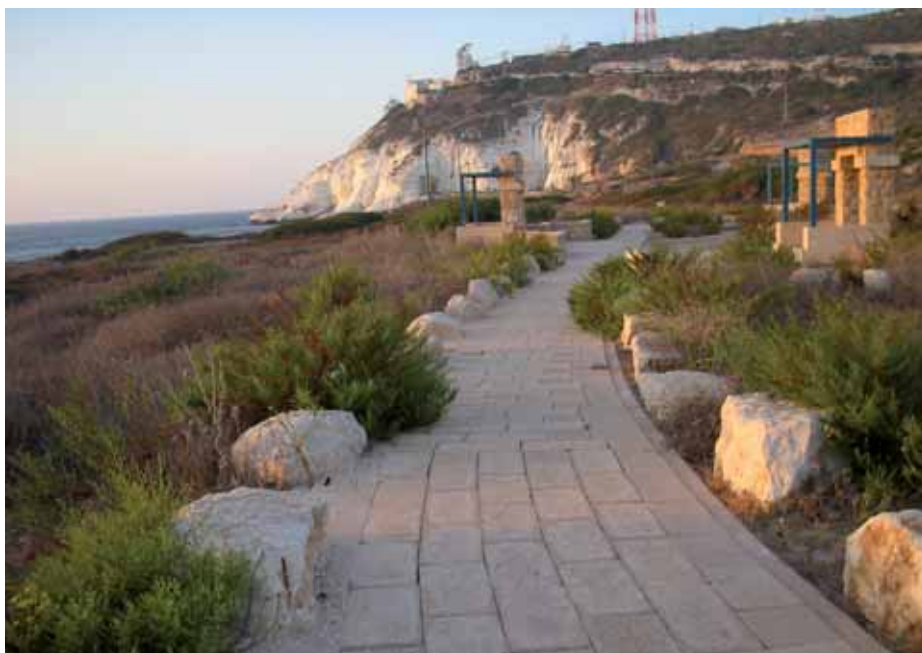
- Management objectives outlined in the information sources:

Conservation of the marine coastal environment and its cultural heritage:

- representative ecosystems/habitats that ensure the conservation of biodiversity
- invertebrates and habitats threatened in the Mediterranean region
- critical habitats for threatened species
- sites of particular aesthetic, cultural or educational value

Sustainable development of the protected area via:

- appropriate zoning to allow all objectives to be attained
- necessary inter-institutional coordination
- public information and education
- monitoring and scientific research
- autofinancing of the Reserve
- the offer of opportunities for local development and improving the management of natural resources.



• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT							
1 Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2 Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3 Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4 Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5 Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6 Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT							
7 Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8 Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9 Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10 Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES							
11 Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12 Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13 Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14 Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING							
15 Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3

1 Primary objective.
2 Secondary objective.
3 Optional objective.
– Non-applicable objective.

The WDPA assigns this area Category III status, probably because the original areas were established to preserve a site of historic interest and cliffs with landscape value. The new objectives of the area following its extension suggest that Category II might be more appropriate.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category II, National Park. Protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation



Habibas Islands Natural Marine Reserve

Legal status: Natural Marine Reserve

Name: Iles Habibas

Year of declaration: 2003

Area: 2,740 ha

Country: Algeria



Phase I. Information gathering

- Declaration of protected status:
 - Decree n.° 83-458, 23 July 1983, fixing the statutes for national parks.
 - Executive Decree n.° 87-143, 16 June 1987, establishing the rules and modes of classifications of natural reserves and national parks.
 - Executive Decree n.° 03-147, 29 March 2003, passed by the Local Government (Wilaya) of Oran, establishing the Habibas Islands as a natural marine reserve.
- Other documents:
 - Proposal of the Ministry of Territorial Planning and the Environment of Algeria (2004) with regard to the Mediterranean Action Plan for the consideration of this natural reserve as a Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI – Barcelona Convention). The area still has no management plan but the ZEPIM establishes those foreseen for such areas.

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria explicitly stated in the information documents consulted:
 - Originality: this is the only island zone on this part of Algeria's coast.
 - Ecological values: the area is of great importance for the protection of marine and terrestrial habitats, refuges, and the reproduction of species of fishing interest.
 - Geological and aesthetic values: volcanic islands covered by calcareous sediments of marine organism origin.
 - Biological values: endemisms and the rarity and fragility of many species of heritage value (2 plant endemisms, 9 species of protected marine birds, 6 species of marine invertebrates protected by the Barcelona Convention, and over 100 species of fish belonging to 30 different families).
 - A very well preserved area free of human settlements.
 - Scientific interest: representative of the best preserved areas of the Mediterranean.

- The need to control threats posed by illegal fishing, the collection of birds eggs, the uncontrolled arrival of campers and excursionists, and the threat posed by rats on the islands.

• Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–

1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion.

2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion.

– Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category Ia – Ib – II – III – IV – VI

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category Ia – II

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives clearly outlined in the information sources:
 - The conservation of the marine, terrestrial and bird biodiversity of Algeria.
 - The protection of the resting areas of many species (commercial or otherwise), particularly of species that have disappeared from the northern shores of the Mediterranean.
 - The protection of the last refuges of the monk seal.
 - The conservation of ecological habitat of vulnerable or fragile species.

Although the area still has no management plan, the management objectives foreseen can be inferred from the area's candidacy for SPAMI status. The proposal includes zoning of the area with a central nucleus where protection will be complete and there will be no human presence, an area of controlled access where professional fishing will be allowed, and a transition zone where regulations will be more relaxed. It is unclear whether recreation will be allowed.



• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

		Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT								
1	Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2	Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3	Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4	Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5	Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6	Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT								
7	Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8	Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9	Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10	Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES								
11	Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13	Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14	Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING								
15	Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3

1 Primary objective.
2 Secondary objective.
3 Optional objective.
– Non-applicable objective.

The regulatory documents that currently exist do not well define the exclusion or management of public use and recreation in zones B and C, which would confirm Category II status. This category cannot be assigned, however, since human settlements are not strictly excluded and because fishing is allowed in the peripheral zone.

The area has no IUCN management category in the WDPA, while in the MedPan database it has Category III status (perhaps because of the widely held idea that Category III is equivalent to Category II in a small area).

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category II, National Park. Protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation



El Kala National Marine Park

Legal status: National Marine Park

Name: El Kala

Year of declaration: 1983

Area: 80,000 ha

Country: Algeria



Phase I. Information gathering

- Declaration of protected status:
 - Decree n.° 83-458, 23 July 1983, fixing the statutes for national parks.
 - Decree n.° 83-462, 23 September 1983 establishing the El Kala National Park (terrestrial zone).
- Management plan:
 - Preliminary plan produced in 2005 for presentation at the Barcelona Convention in order to support the area's declaration as a ZEPIM.
- Others:
 - Declared Biosphere Reserve in 1990.

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria explicitly stated in the information documents consulted:
 - High habitat diversity in mountain areas with oak and pine woods, coastal areas and wetlands, and marine ecosystems representative of the Mediterranean.
 - High species diversity, including tropical and palearctic flora and fauna, notable frequency of rare and threatened species.
 - Important over-wintering area for migratory birds.
 - Marine species and habitats protected by the Barcelona Convention.

- Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion.							
2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion.							
– Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category II – IV – V

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category II – V

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives clearly outlined in the information sources:
 - Conservation of rare and threatened regional and local species and endemic species of the Mediterranean with large populations in the area.
 - Conservation of species rare in the Mediterranean and at the limit of their distribution in El Kala.
 - Conservation of marine habitats such as meadows of *Posidonia oceanica*, *Dictyoperis membranacea* woods, and the ridges home to *Corallina elongata*, as well as caves providing potential recovery habitats for the monk seal.
 - Preservation of colonies and roosts of marine birds and their reproduction sites, and of the resting areas of the osprey and the European shag.
 - The participation of the different ministries involved, representatives of civil society and the local population in planning and monitoring programmed actions.

- Continuous monitoring of ecological processes, habitats, population dynamics, landscapes and human impact.
- The promotion of natural values and the facilitation of their enjoyment in buffer and transition zones through sensitisation and education programmes.
- Integration of the management of the area in the sustainable development of the region.
- Contribution towards the sustainable development of the local population via the regulated use of resources and ecotourism.



• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

		Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT								
1	Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2	Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3	Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4	Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5	Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6	Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT								
7	Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8	Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9	Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10	Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES								
11	Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13	Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14	Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING								
15	Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3

1 Primary objective.
2 Secondary objective.
3 Optional objective.
– Non-applicable objective.

The proposed procedure assigns this area Category II or V status. The complexity of this part marine/part terrestrial area is clear. In addition, the management objectives derived from zoning mean a single category cannot be immediately defined (the A zones are practically strict reserves while the C zones allow nearly activities). The total extension of the area is 78,438 ha of land plus another 15,000 ha of sea; the strict reserve covers 9292 ha, extending to 18,154 ha according to the UNESCO “nuclear zone” definition).

The existence of a nuclear and buffer zones means the area could be assigned Category II or V status. However, since more than 75% of the total area is subject to human use, it would be more appropriate to assign Category V status (that which it receives in the WDPA).

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category V, Protected Landscape/Seascape.
Protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation
and recreation



Zembra and Zembretta National Marine Park

Legal status: National Marine Park

Name: Zembra and Zembretta

Year of declaration: 1977

Area: 5,095 ha

Country: Tunisia



Phase I. Information gathering

- Declaration of protected status:
Decree n.° 77-340, 1 April 1977 (National Park) for the terrestrial zone.
Decree issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, 9 November 1973, establishing a biological protection zone with a radius of one mile around the island of Zembra, within which fishing is prohibited.
Confirmed by Law n.° 94-13, 31 January 1994 and the decree issued on 28 September 1995 prohibiting fishing in a radius of 1.5 km around the island.
- Management plan:
Currently the Ministry of the Environment and the Agency for the Protection and Management of the Coast (APAL) has a preliminary management plan (produced in 2003). This was presented at the Barcelona Convention in support of the area's declaration as a Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance.

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria explicitly stated in the information documents consulted:
 - Presents of unperturbed 'islands' of vegetation and coastal terrestrial habitats.
 - Presence of important Mediterranean habitats: meadows of *Posidonia*, rocky sea bottoms and potential habitats for the monk seal.
 - Notable presence of marine regionally threatened species protected by the Barcelona Convention: *Posidonia oceanica*, *Cystoseira spinosa*, *Axinella polypoides*, *Asteroides calycularis*, *Centrostephanus longispinus*, *Pinna nobilis*, *Epinephelus guaza*, *Calonectris diomedea*, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* and *Tursiops truncatus*.

- Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion. 2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion. – Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINAR ASSIGNMENT: Category I – II – IV – VI

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINAR ASSIGNMENT: Category Ia – II

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives clearly outlined in the information sources:
 - Conservation of threatened species.
 - Conservation of habitats of Mediterranean interest.
 - Conservation of sea birds.
 - Exclusion of invasive species.
 - Regulation of activities to ensure their compatibility with SPAMI objectives.
 - Adoption of mechanisms for financing the management of the SPAMI via compatible activities.
 - Participation of the different ministries involved as well as representatives of civil society.
 - Monitoring and follow-up of ecological processes, habitats, landscapes and the impact of human activities.
 - Training of managers and qualified technical personnel and the building of an appropriate infrastructure.

- Integration of the management of the archipelago with the process of sustainable development in the area.

• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT							
1 Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2 Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3 Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4 Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5 Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6 Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT							
7 Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8 Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9 Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10 Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES							
11 Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12 Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13 Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14 Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING							
15 Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3

- 1 Primary objective.
 2 Secondary objective.
 3 Optional objective.
 – Non-applicable objective.

The importance given to the maintenance of naturalness as well as the objective of offering some opportunity for development by the local population (especially in buffer zones), determine that Category II status could be awarded. However, mention to the public use model should be made explicit.

This area was assigned Category II in the WDPA.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category II, National Park. Protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation



Torres del Paine National Park

Legal status: Parque Nacional

Name: Torres del Paine

Year of declaration: 1959

Area: 181,414 ha

Country: Chile



Phase I. Information gathering

- Declaration of protected status:
Decree 383, 1959, for the creation of the Lake Grey National Tourism Park National Park, with some 4.332 ha.
Decree 1050, 1961, amplification and change of name to the Torres del Paine National Tourism Park, with some 24,532 ha.
Decree 148, 1970, amplification of the Torres del Paine National Tourism Park to some 35.532 ha.
Decrees 90 and 315 of 1975 and 1979 respectively, fixing the new extension of the park at 181,414 ha.
- Management plan:
The Torres del Paine National Tourism Park Management plan, version 4.0, 2007 (unofficial).
- Others:
UNESCO-Program MaB 1978 resolution as a Biosphere Reserve.

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria explicitly stated in the information documents consulted:
 - Providing protection against the intentions of parties whose aim it is to make profit from those lands containing the forest heritage of the State, which have high silvicultural value and are of public interest,
 - Including the formations known as the Torres del Paine, which are of recognised scenic quality and exceptional touristic value".
 - Guarantee the protection of certain tree species and to conserve the beauty of the landscape.
 - Include the areas necessary to provide dynamic protection of important ecological features, to guarantee the protection of the area's scenery and panoramic views, to

guarantee the efficient use of the area for tourism and recreation, and to ensure the survival of the native fauna.

- Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion. 2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion. – Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category I – II – III – IV – VI

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category II

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives clearly outlined in the information sources:
 - To improve administrative and financial management.
 - To satisfy the demand of users with respect to the quantity and quality of services offered.
 - To prevent or mitigate the deterioration of the park's natural environment.
 - Permanent improvement of natural and cultural recourses.
 - To enhance the image of the park before the authorities, visitors and the local community.

• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

		Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT								
1	Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2	Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3	Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4	Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5	Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6	Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT								
7	Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8	Allow restricted access by the public, so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9	Foster and manage public use, with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10	Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES								
11	Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13	Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14	Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING								
15	Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3

1 Primary objective.

2 Secondary objective.

3 Optional objective.

– Non-applicable objective.

The area would be best assigned Category II status since there are no traditional activities practised (beyond tourism), nor any use of natural resources. The area is assigned the same category in the WDPA.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category II, National Park. Protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation



Tortuguero National Park

Legal status: Parque Nacional

Name: Tortuguero

Year of declaration: 1975

Area: 18,946 ha

Country: Costa Rica



Phase I. Information gathering

- Declaration of protected status:
Law 5660, 3 November 1975.
- Management plan:
The management plan was made official by the Scientific and Technical Committee of the *Área de Conservación de Tortuguero* (AcTo) on 26 May 2004. Its zoning was published in the *Diario Oficial La Gaceta* N 97, Monday 22 May 2006.

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria explicitly stated in the information documents consulted:
 - The conservation of species of flora and fauna threatened with extinction in the American Tropics.
 - The fact that the area has examples of the main associations of the Caribbean side of Costa Rica.
 - A system of natural channels and lagoons of great scenic, recreational and touristic value.
 - Conservation of the colony of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) that lays its eggs in this area and is threatened with extinction.

The law declaring the area's creation prohibits:

- The felling of trees or the extraction of forest products of any type, except for the commercial exploitation of coconut trees.
- The hunting or capture of any wild animals, or the collection of their subproducts or cast-off products, with the exception of that established by Article 9 of the corresponding Law.
- The hunting of marine turtles of any species or the collection of their eggs or any of their cast-off products.
- The collection or extraction of any object of historic or archaeological value.
- Fishing for sport or domestic consumption within the limits of the National Park is subject to the conditions established by the National Parks Service.

- Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion. 2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion. – Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category II – III – IV

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category II

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives clearly outlined in the information sources:

Primary objectives:

- To conserve those representative samples of terrestrial and marine ecosystems present in the humid tropical forest of Costa Rica's Caribbean north
- To protect species of flora and fauna in danger of extinction, especially marine turtles, felines, the manatee and certain birds.
- To protect outstanding landscapes such as those associated with natural channels and lagoons.

Secondary objectives

- To preserve terrestrial and marine resources for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and touristic reasons.
- To contribute to the socioeconomic and environmental development of the region.

• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT							
1 Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2 Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3 Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4 Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5 Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6 Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT							
7 Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8 Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9 Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10 Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES							
11 Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12 Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13 Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14 Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING							
15 Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3

- 1 Primary objective.
 2 Secondary objective.
 3 Optional objective.
 – Non-applicable objective.

This area protects the natural resources representative of the Caribbean North Region such as water resources, characteristic tropical rain forests, fauna and flora in danger of extinction (at the national and international level), educational resources and recreational resources. These protected resources have been little altered by Man. The area was created mainly to protect existing natural resources and those that in the past have been affected by extraction processes. The objectives of the management plan include all those pertaining to Category II. The existence of areas of strict reserve with no public use is perfectly compatible with this category. The area is assigned this category in the WDPA.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category II, National Park. Protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation



Galápagos Marine Reserve

Legal status: Reserva Marina

Name: Galápagos

Year of declaration: 1996

Area: 13,300,000 ha

Country: Ecuador



Phase I. Information gathering

- Declaration of protected status:
Special Regimen Law for the Conservation and Development of the Galápagos Province (18 March 1998)
- Management plan:
Management plan for the conservation and sustainable use of the Galápagos Marine Reserve (November 1998).

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria explicitly stated in the information documents consulted:
 - To protect and conserve the marine-coastal ecosystems of the archipelago and its biological diversity for the benefit of humanity, local populations, science and education.
- Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–

1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion.

2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion.

– Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category I – II – VI

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINAR ASSIGNMENT: Category VI

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives clearly outlined in the information sources:
 - To protect and conserve the marine and coastal ecosystems of the Galápagos in order to preserve ecological and evolutionary processes in the long term.
 - To complement the protection of terrestrial environments by extending this protection to the marine and coastal ecosystems of the Galápagos and the protected communities and species of flora and fauna that depend on the marine environment for their survival.
 - To protect endemic marine and coastal species for their genetic, ecological, touristic and intrinsic value.
 - To ensure the maintenance and preservation, or in some cases the recovery, of populations of species important to commercial fishing.
 - To maintain and improve the social and economic situation of Galápagos fishermen, ensuring that fishing is undertaken in a manner compatible with the maintenance of biodiversity.
 - To conserve the marine and coastal ecosystems of the Galápagos as the economic base of controlled tourism, mitigating or preventing the problems associated with this activity.
 - To promote scientific activities with the aim of improving our understanding of marine biodiversity, of the places and species exploited, and the ecological impacts of human activity.
 - To promote scientific and cultural regarding the nature of the marine and coastal areas.
 - To put into action an adaptive and participatory system, involving the use of monitoring data, with the aim of being able to modify management strategies in accordance with new information or environmental or socioeconomic situations.
 - To create and strengthen permanent structures and financing via the Galápagos National Park for the functioning of the Junta de Manejo Participativo de la Reserva Marina de Galápagos (Galápagos Marine reserve Participatory Management Board).
 - To ensure the conservation and maintenance of values of scenic interest.
 - To establish basic scientific and technical requirements that will ensure the conservation of the natural resources of the Marine reserve, and its sustainable development.

• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

		Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
								↓
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT								
1	Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2	Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3	Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4	Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5	Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6	Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT								
7	Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8	Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9	Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10	Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES								
11	Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13	Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14	Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING								
15	Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3
1	Primary objective.							
2	Secondary objective.							
3	Optional objective.							
–	Non-applicable objective.							

This reserve can clearly be assigned Category VI status since there are no traditional uses to be contemplated nor is there any involvement of a cultural landscape resulting from the coevolution or interaction between humans and Nature. Rather, this area is predominantly natural and the recovery of fishing resources is intended to benefit local fishermen. The area is assigned this same category in the WDPA.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category VI. Managed Resources
Protected Area. Protected area managed mainly for the sustainable
use of natural ecosystems



Estero e Isla Juan Venado Natural Reserve

Legal status: Reserva Natural
Name: Estero e Isla Juan venado
Year of declaration: 1983
Area: 4,600 ha
Country: Nicaragua



Phase I. Information gathering

- Framework Law
Decree 14 (1999); *La Gaceta Diario Oficial* n.° 42 and 43, 2 and 3 March 1999; protected areas law in Nicaragua.
- Declaration:
Decree 1320, *La Gaceta Diario Oficial* n.° 213, 19 September 1983, declaring the creation of the Isla y Estero de Juan Venado Natural Reserve.
- Management plan:
Ministerial Resolution n.° 01-2003; *La Gaceta Diario Oficial* 25, 5 February 2003. Management plan for the Isla y Estero de Juan Venado Natural Reserve.

Phase II. Analysis of declaration criteria

- Declaration criteria explicitly stated in the information documents consulted:
 - Conservation and restoration of the mangrove ecosystem and its characteristic flora and fauna.
 - The supply of ecosystem services for the well-being of local communities.

- Pre-assignment based on declaration criteria

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion. 2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion. – Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.							

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category II – IV

Phase III. Pre-assignment key

Use the Pre-assignment Key (Fig. 1).

PRELIMINARY ASSIGNMENT: Category IV

Phase IV. Detailed analysis of management objectives

- Management objectives clearly outlined in the information sources:
 - To protect the ecosystem and to conserve biodiversity and biological cycles of interest.
 - To protect the populations of black lizard and parrots.
 - To favour the recovery of mangrove trees, cormorants, deer, and the restoration of ecological processes.
 - To allow scientific monitoring and research.
 - To prohibit mining, oil extraction, fishing concessions, forestry concessions and other activities in conflict with the area's management objectives.
 - To allow research, education and interpretation, ecotourism, recreation and the sustainable use of certain forest products.
 - To allow the management of certain animal and plant species in order to maintain biological equilibrium.

• Assignment based on Management Objectives:

		Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
						↓		
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT								
1	Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2	Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3	Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4	Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5	Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6	Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT								
7	Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8	Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9	Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10	Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES								
11	Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12	Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13	Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14	Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING								
15	Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3

1 Primary objective.

2 Secondary objective.

3 Optional objective.

– Non-applicable objective.

This area has the goal of conserving the mangrove swamp ecosystem, in which multiple human activities and uses of resources are allowed (thus one cannot speak of 'naturalness'), managed with the aim of recovering certain species and habitats. The area should therefore be assigned Category IV status – that which it receives in the WDPA.

DEFINITIVE ASSIGNMENT: Category IV, Habitat/Species Management Area. Protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention



5 Glossary

Ecological integrity: the presence in an ecosystem of all its elements (structure) and processes (function). Maximum integrity excludes human activities that dissipate energy and introduce disorganisation into the ecosystem.

Ecosystem services: functions of natural ecosystems deemed of benefit to society.

Local/resident population: people that live in a protected area or its surroundings, or who are socially linked to the protected area. These persons are influenced by the management followed and are the potential beneficiaries and providers of facilities, activities and services.

Management activities: actions destined to attain the objectives set out for a protected natural area.

Management objectives: the goals towards which the management of protected areas strive. The most important are: research, the protection of nature, the conservation of species and genetic diversity, the maintenance of environmental services, the protection of unique natural and cultural characteristics, tourism and leisure, education, the sustainable development of natural resources, and the maintenance of traditional, cultural attributes.

Naturalness: the condition of ecosystems in which there is no human presence, or when the structure and function of the ecosystem is not conditioned by human activity.

Perturbation: a discrete event that changes the structure of the ecosystem, its communities or populations, and that changes the availability of resources or environmental conditions.

Protected area: according to the IUCN (1994), 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

Public use: a set of facilities, activities and services that, independently of those who manage them, provide the authorities of the protected area with the means of introducing visitors (in an orderly manner) to the natural and cultural values of the area, that guarantee the conservation of these values and dissemination of information in their regard, and which encourage environmental education and interpretation.

Representativeness: representativeness is based on the idea that a system of protected natural areas should include the entire spectrum of variation within their corresponding ecosystems or environmental complexes in a region.

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7 Model Form for Assigning a Management Category

1. Official name and legal status of the protected area.
.....
2. Identification of documents that can act as information sources (laws declaring the status of the protected area, management plans etc).
Law declaring protected status:
Management plans:
Others:
3. Identification in these documents of the reasons and/or values that inspired the protection of the area (extra sheets can be used as necessary).
1)
2)
3)
...
4. Mark in the "Declaration criteria Table" those that correspond to the characteristics of the protected area as outlined in the above documents.

Declaration criteria Table

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
DECLARATION CRITERIA							
1 The area has been designated because it mainly contains ecosystems that have been altered very little or not at all by human exploitation or occupation	1	1	1	2	2	–	1
2 It has been designated for the protection of one or more unique natural / cultural elements	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
3 The area has been designated for the protection of certain species or habitats of special interest	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
4 The area has been designated due to the representativeness of its ecosystems or species	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
5 Area designated for the protection of traditional resource management systems , of cultural interest and associated with high natural values	–	–	–	–	2	1	–

- 1 Primary objective of the declaration / key criterion.
 2 Secondary objective of the declaration / optional criterion.
 – Not applicable / criterion for exclusion.

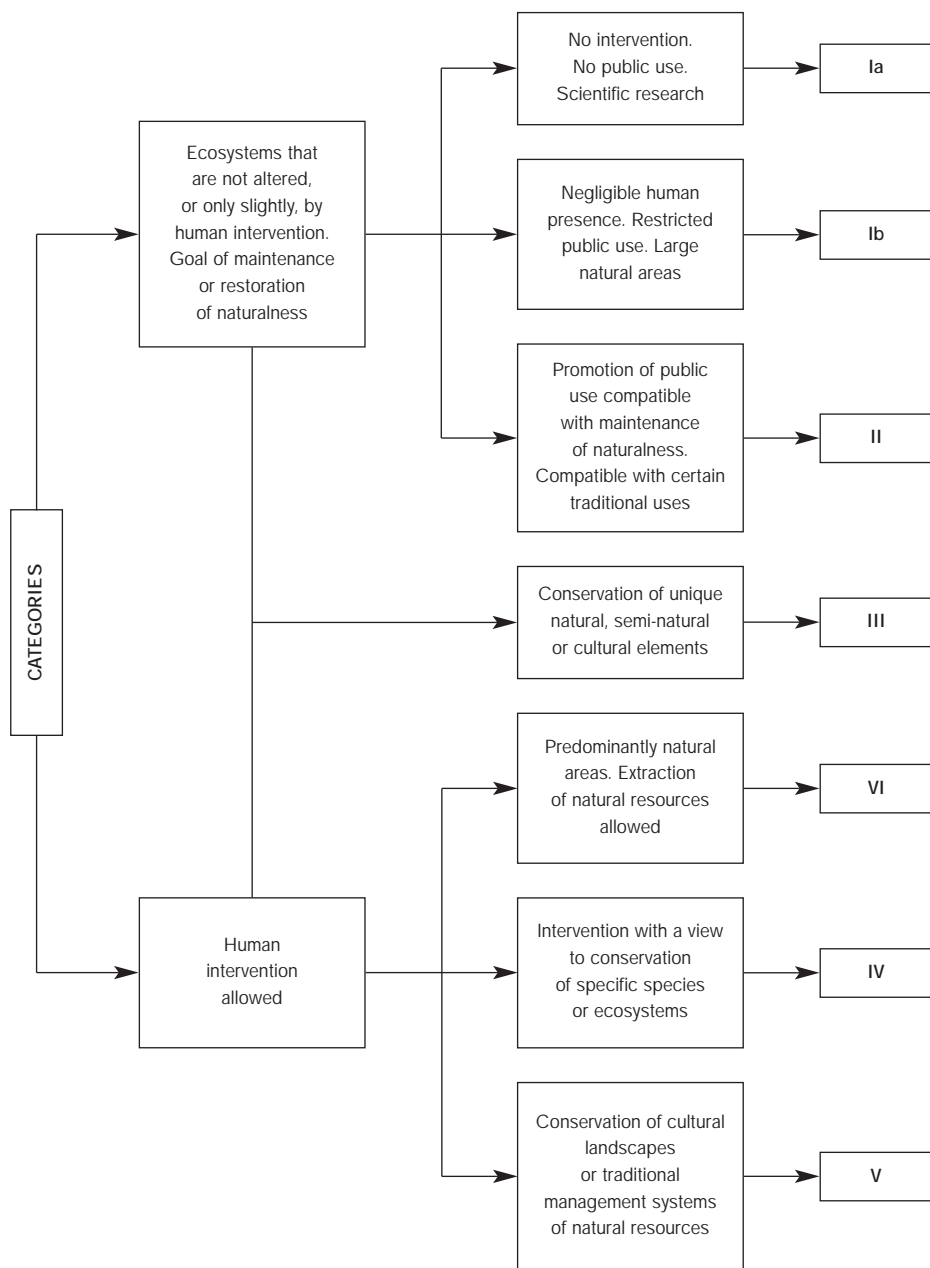
5. Initial assignment of categories suggested by some primary criterion.

INITIAL ASSIGNMENT

6. Identify management objectives from the information documents used. (use father sheets as necessary).

- 1)
 2)
 3)
 ...

7. Use the following key to obtain an initial assignment.



INITIAL CATEGORY

8. In the Management Objectives Table, identify those that are explicitly stated the information sources.

Management Objectives Table

	Ia	Ib	II	III	IV	V	VI
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT							
1 Maintain the integrity of the ecosystems; respect the environmental processes and the natural regime of their disturbance; reduce human intervention to a minimum	1	3	–	–	–	–	–
2 Management activities aimed at preserving habitats, ecosystems and species in the most natural state possible or at recovering this situation (restoration)	3	2	1	3	–	–	2
3 Maintenance of environmental services	2	1	1	–	3	2	2
4 Preserve unique natural / cultural characteristics	–	–	2	1	3	2	–
5 Active intervention to keep the habitat in the necessary conditions to protect specific species , through human manipulation	–	–	3	–	1	2	–
6 Preserve the continuity of traditional practices maintaining high natural values	–	–	–	–	3	1	3
PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT							
7 Prohibit access by the public	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
8 Allow restricted access by the public , so as to preserve the natural attributes in the area	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
9 Foster and manage public use , with a view to inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational uses	–	–	1	2	2	2	3
10 Promote recreational and tourism activities that are in line with essential qualities of these areas	–	–	1	2	3	1	3
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES							
11 Exclude the use of natural resources	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
12 Allow the sustainable use of natural resources through the supply of natural products and the provision of services	–	3	3	–	2	1	1
13 Promote socio-economic development and bring benefits for the local population	–	–	2	2	2	1	1
14 Promote the maintenance of traditional / cultural practices for handling natural resources	–	–	3	–	3	1	2
RESEARCH AND MONITORING							
15 Facilitate the conduct of scientific research and environmental monitoring activities	1	3	2	2	2	2	3

1 Primary objective.

2 Secondary objective.

3 Optional objective.

– Non-applicable objective.

9. Select the category from the table which has all the primary objectives marked. Verify that there are no secondary objectives incompatible with the category selected.
10. Assign a definitive category.

DEFINITIVE CATEGORY

Person performing the procedure

Position/relationship with the protected area



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