



UK Protected Area Categories Club

Have you joined the UK PACC yet?

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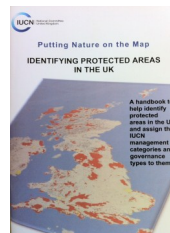
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There are thousands of places around the world where countries, communities and individuals have come together to protect nature: we call them "protected areas". Through its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), IUCN has set global standards for them, with internationally adopted guidelines for protected area management categories and governance types. This guidance was revised in 2008 and is now being promoted across the world.

Applying the guidelines to UK sites is a valuable but not necessarily easy task. However, the benefits are considerable and include

- Helping to meet international commitments such as the Aichi targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity

- Identifying key building blocks for ecological networks and climate change strategies
- Showcasing and sharing UK conservation experience abroad



For more benefits, see the handbook produced by the IUCN NCUK Putting Nature on the Map (PNOTM) project. You can find this on the IUCN NCUK website www.iucn-uk.org at no charge. The PNOTM project has been established to improve the quantity and quality of UK information

on the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA).

Now you can join with those who have gone through the process of assigning an IUCN PA Management Category to sites you are responsible for. Read on and see who is already engaged. There is help available to guide you through the process and if you have questions, just email: chris@cmeweb.co.uk

We hope that you will find sharing information and experiences with fellow land managers through being part of the Categories Club. Will you be a leader of the PACC? Be one of the first to have a revised IUCN PA Management Category assigned to your site and join the club!



Adrian Phillips
(see page 4 for conference delegates photo)

PNOTM endorsed at PA conference

A presentation by Adrian Phillips on IUCN NCUK's PA project Putting Nature on the Map (PNOTM) was received well by delegates attending the organization's conference 'Protected Areas - Natural Solutions' at Brockholes, near Preston on 26th April 2012. Adrian, a leading

member of the IUCN NCUK PA Working Group, outlined the project and created a platform for speakers from The National Trust, National Association of AONBs and UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme to support its objective of establishing an active data stream to im-

prove the information held on the WDPA for protected areas in the UK. Delegates attending were from a wide range of PAs and speakers included senior representatives from IUCN, all four UK country nature conservation agencies, JNCC, National Parks, and a range of NGOs.



World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA)

The World Database on Protected Areas is a foundation dataset for conservation decision making. It contains crucial information from national governments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, international biodiversity convention secretariats and many others. It is used for ecological gap analysis, environmental impact analysis and is increasingly used for private sector

decision-making. There are now 194,872 sites now available through the WDPA which can be seen at:

www.protectedplanet.net

There is species information for each site too, where the website interfaces with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).

If you look up a UK site, the chances are that the content may be incomplete and sometimes wrong. The great thing about the WDPA

Protected Planet website is that, once registered, you will be able to add to and edit the sites that are already on there yourself, rather like Wikipedia. In this way you can make sure that the information on the website for the site you have an interest in is correct and up to date. This will ensure that the data is accurately represented to viewers across the world.

PA Assessment Panel working with JNCC



The UK Protected Areas Assessment Panel is a new innovation arising from the PNOTM project and has been embraced by UK Members of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) who make up the panel, which initially comprises: Prof. Roger Crofts, Adrian Phillips, Nigel Dudley, Sue Stolton and Richard Partington.

Expressions of interest in joining the Assessment Panel are welcome.

The Panel will review SoCs and individual sites that are brought before it on a regular basis, before passing its recommendations on to JNCC who will then consider them going on to the European Environment Agency (EEA) before they

are transferred to the UNEP/WCMC in Cambridge who relay them to the WDPA.

There are currently 8945 PAs listed, mostly terrestrial but 260 marine sites too. These are all listed as Category IV (8472) and V (142) but 330 are listed as categories not reported or not applicable.

Statements of Compliance move on



A statement of compliance (SoC) is a succinct but authoritative justification for a site, or group of sites, to be considered as protected areas in accordance with the IUCN definition adopted in 2008. Originating from a landscape designation workshop held in London,

this idea was put forward by the Association of National Park Authorities and the National Association of AONBs amongst others.

Since the workshop, draft SoCs have been created for SSSIs in Scotland written by Stewart Pritchard at SNH,

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas for Conservation (SACs) written by Roger Crofts. In progress are SoCs for National Parks by ANPA and AONBs by Howard Davies with Paul Tiplady.



Leading pilot projects

Spearheading the categories trial period in the UK during 2012 are The National Trust (NT), The National Association of AONB (NAAONB) and the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT). They will each compile a draft SoC to be put before the UK PA Assessment Panel, along with the results of the management categories and governance type assignment process.

NT will be using its Lake

District properties in NW England to pilot the assignment process, particularly to see how its inalienable land will fit into the system.

NAAONB have put forward the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB in North Wales. Having a landscape designation as a pilot is important to test the IUCN definition.

SWT owns 60% of its 123 nature reserves, the

remainder being under management agreements with a total area of over 20,000 ha. All will be considered when assigning the IUCN categories to them. The majority share a variety of designations from World Heritage Sites to National Nature Reserves, from Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) to SSSIs. 44 of their 123 properties have no current statutory designation.



National Trust



Scottish Wildlife Trust



Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturol Eiddrefod
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The IUCN Categories at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Jeju 2012

Every 4 years the world of conservation comes together at IUCN's World Conservation Congress (WCC) to share ideas at the **Conservation Forum** and to debate and establish environmental policy, approve the IUCN's future Programme and elect the IUCN Council at the **Members Assembly**.

At the last WCC the revised IUCN Categories Guidelines were launched. At this congress several initiatives which will further aid implementation include:

- A Conservation Campus on the project developing the: *IUCN/WCPA standards on the process for recognising protected*

areas and assigning management categories and governance types

- Supplementary guidance on using the categories in marine protected areas
- A new manual on *Governance of Protected Areas: From understanding to action*



IUCN
WORLD
CONSERVATION
CONGRESS
Jeju 2012

When is a PA not a PA?

The IUCN definition of a Protected Area is: *A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values*

Once this definition is met, one of seven **Management Categories** are allocated:

- Ia Strict nature reserve
- Ib Wilderness area
- II National Park
- III Natural Monument
- IV Management area
- V Landscape/seascape
- VI Sustainable Use Area

and **Governance Types** are identified:

1. Government
2. Shared
3. Private
4. Indigenous peoples and local communities

Sounds simple doesn't it?



PNOTM endorsed at PA Conference (contd.)

Delegates attending the 'Protected Areas - Natural Solutions' conference at Brockholes Conference Centre and Nature Reserve near Preston in April 2012. One of the commitments arising from this event was to reconvene protected area practitioners prior to the World Parks Congress in 2014 to share the results of the PNOTM project.



Towards the World Parks Congress 2014



The landmark global forum on parks and protected areas is to be hosted in Australia in November 2014. The IUCN World Parks Congress takes place only once every 10 years, and is the world's most influential gathering of people involved in protected area management. As challenges in development and the sustainable use of Earth's natural resources accelerate, the IUCN World Parks Congress will play a key role in setting the agenda for the vitality and future growth of protected areas in meeting these challenges. Since the first Congress in Seattle, USA in 1962, the IUCN World Parks Congress has been seminal to conservation

policy worldwide, addressing global challenges and opportunities, establishing standards to ensure that protected areas are effective and being a source of inspiration and innovation for the decade that follows.

"Protected areas are without doubt one of conservation's great success stories and one of the world's most valuable assets," said Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General of IUCN. *"The diversity of ways in which indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector and governments work together in and around protected areas are key to this*

success". Today some 13 % of the planet's land surface is dedicated as protected areas, and through the Convention on Biological Diversity, nations are aiming for a target of 17 % by 2020. However, major gaps remain in the marine environment, with less than 2 % of our seas and oceans currently under protection. The Congress will be the premier gathering to address these gaps.

2014 provides a significant target date to aim for to have an exemplar UK database in place on the WDPA.



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