

PROTECTING THE PLANET 30x30

- The 2022 [IPCC Report](#) is clear that we must effectively and equitably conserve 30-50% of the planet
- Leaders call for effective protected and conserved areas to cover at least 30% of the planet by 2030
- Protected and conserved areas are essential to conserve all areas of importance for biodiversity
 - They can deliver biodiversity conservation and societal benefits, including climate contributions
 - They must be fairly governed, recognize rights and help advance equity
 - They must be managed effectively to maintain their values
- The IUCN Green List Standard guides effectiveness in protected and conserved areas

What is the issue?

Fairly governed and effectively managed protected and conserved areas are essential for biodiversity conservation and human well-being. They can also help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Indigenous peoples' conserved territories and areas are proven as particularly effective in preserving biodiversity, landscape integrity, and maintaining unique cultures and knowledge. Growth in the number of recognized protected and conserved areas worldwide since 2010 has been impressive, with 43% of the total area added during the decade.

However, not all protected and conserved areas are effective. Many are insufficiently resourced, lack good governance and struggle to achieve effective management. They fall short of their objectives and fail to respond to new challenges. Many indigenous and community conserved territories and areas are not recognized for their sustained conservation contributions.

Ongoing conflicts, unsustainable use, unabated threats and illegal activities put many areas and their custodians at risk.



The indigenous Kuakam community celebrate the recognition of their conserved area, Papua New Guinea. © Kuakam Landowners Foundation

What should be done?

IUCN recommends that CBD Parties and other Governments should:

- **Protect 30% of global terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, effectively managed and equitably governed, including all key biodiversity areas.**
- **Recognize the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in conservation**, and enable their effective participation in governance and management. Their ongoing contributions to nature conservation should be respected, supported and defended.
- **Adopt a globally consistent Standard to guide the attainment of equity and effectiveness in protected and conserved areas.** The IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas is recognized by the CBD as a voluntary standard by which Parties can use to benchmark progress and effectiveness.
- **Commit to expand and diversify well-connected and effective systems of protected and conserved areas**, including other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).
- **Develop capacity to achieve fair and effective systems of protected and conserved areas** to achieve biodiversity conservation, climate stabilisation, and to promote human health and well-being.
- **Increase and sustain investment into fair and effective protected and conserved areas**, ensuring their contributions to people, including their social and economic value in the face of global challenges.

Why is this important?

The ecosystems that sustain all life on earth are only partially protected in the world's protected and conserved areas. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that intact natural ecosystems are fundamental to the sustainability and prosperity of all people. Protected and conserved areas are part of the solution to stabilising the world's climate, securing livelihoods and avoiding risks to human health and well-being.

To achieve this, they have to be effectively governed and managed. Conservation must uphold the rights of all involved, ensure fair and just processes, and the equitable distribution of costs and benefits. They must address the threats that degrade ecosystems, push species to extinction and disrupt ecosystem services.

They need adequate financing, partnerships and resourcing with the appropriate institutional and human capacity.



Shaanxi-Changqing National Nature Reserve – A Green List certified site, China @NFGA. China has a high number of sites committed to the IUCN Green List Standard and process

Countries must be guided to achieve area-based conservation outcomes. The [IUCN Green List Standard](#) is the only global benchmark for diagnosing performance and identifying what investment and capacity is needed to enhance effectiveness and equity in protected and conserved Areas. Site custodians can share success and inspire action through the IUCN Green List and related initiatives such as [PANORAMA](#), helping peer-exchange and learning locally and globally.

While all countries must ensure that all important areas for biodiversity and nature's contributions to people are protected and conserved, the IUCN Green List now provides them with a consistent, standardized set of criteria that can measure progress, benchmark performance, and validate success.

The right global tools and events

The [IUCN Green List Standard](#) has been designed to take account of protected and conserved areas under all forms of governance, including OECMs. The Standard can be tailored and adapted to the specific context and governance frameworks of any country, region, territory or jurisdiction. While all countries need to step up their efforts to achieve effectiveness, the IUCN Green List Standard now provides them with a consistent, set of criteria and indicators to measure progress, benchmark performance, and validate their success.

The **IUCN World Conservation Congress** already showcased several events related to protected and conserved areas and the Green List that can be accessed through '[Vital Sites: journey to effective area-based conservation](#)'.

Additional Information

[CBD Side event Mar 25th 2022](#)

[Protected Planet report 2020](#)

[IUCN Green List](#)

[Other effective area-based conservation measures](#)

[Governance of Protected Areas](#)

[Effectiveness and the new Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

[IUCN Green List progress and commitments](#)

[PARKS journal – COVID-19 special issue](#)



Green List
Protected | Conserved Areas