



Biodiversity Areas Reference Guide

Conserving our planet, hectare by hectare

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Comments & suggestions are most welcome.
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Contents

1. Introduction to Biodiversity Areas	2
2. The Biodiversity Area Management Standard	2
2.1. Biodiversity Area Management Objectives	2
2.1.1 Conserve biodiversity.....	3
2.1.2 Use biodiversity sustainably and equitably	3
2.2 Biodiversity Area Management Requirements	4
2.2.1 Geographically-defined area	4
2.2.2 Responsible management authority	4
2.2.3 Baseline assessment	4
2.2.4 Management plan	4
2.2.5 Reporting.....	4
3. The Biodiversity Area Certification Process	5
Step 1: Nominate an area	5
Step 2: Design the management plan (up to 2 years)	5
Step 3: Register and certify the biodiversity area	5
Step 4: Manage the biodiversity area (5 years)	6
4. Guidance for Biodiversity Area Management	6
4.1 Guidance on biodiversity area management objectives.....	7
4.1.1 Conservation of biodiversity.....	7
4.1.2 Sustainable & equitable use	8
4.2 Guidance on specifying the area & its management authority	9
4.3 Guidance on baseline assessment	9
4.4 Guidance on monitoring, evaluation & reporting	10
5. Fees	10
Annex A: CBD policy & certified biodiversity areas	11
Annex B: The business case for biodiversity area certification	12
Annex C: Use of terms	13
Annex D: Biodiversity area nomination	16

(The above photo is a coral reef area at Balhaf, Yemen, protected by a new LNG facility.)

1. Introduction to Biodiversity Areas

Since the 9th Conference of the Parties (COP9) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which took place in May 2008, the **Green Development Initiative (GDI)** has been exploring options for securing greater private sector support for biodiversity.

With the adoption of a new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity by COP10 in October 2010, there is a new commitment “to improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.” This includes a target that:

“By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.”

In support of this new commitment and target for area-based conservation, the GDI has designed a standard and certification system for effective and equitable management of biodiversity areas. In so doing, it establishes a biodiversity metric - a certified biodiversity hectare - which will facilitate transparency and accountability in the financing of biodiversity positive outcomes.

A **biodiversity area** is a geographically-defined area which is managed to achieve the CBD objectives of biodiversity conservation and the sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity in the context of sustainable development.

Section 2 sets out the objectives and requirements of biodiversity area management. Section 3 outlines the certification process. Section 4 introduces key guidance available for biodiversity area management and Section 5 is on fees. Further information on CBD policy and the business case for the certified biodiversity areas can be found in Annexes A and B respectively. Annex C provides a list of definitions of key terms used for biodiversity area certification. Annex D provides the template for nominating a biodiversity area.

2. The Biodiversity Area Management Standard

The **Biodiversity Area Management Standard** sets out the management objectives and requirements for a registered or certified biodiversity area. As explained in Section 3, the Biodiversity Area Certification Process sets out the process for nominating, registering and certifying a biodiversity area.

2.1. Biodiversity Area Management Objectives

The management objectives of a biodiversity area are based on the objectives of the CBD and, as appropriate, the objectives of other multilateral biodiversity-related conventions. For each objective, there is a broad set of criteria and indicators which will need to be further developed in light of area-based social and environmental factors.

2.1.1 Conserve biodiversity

Biodiversity in the area must be conserved and, where appropriate, restored.

The first objective of the CBD, is “the conservation of biological diversity.” The CBD further defines ‘in-situ conservation’ - which is the focus of a biodiversity area - as “the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.”

Key criteria & indicators

- Management impacts in the geographically-defined area must be biodiversity positive as measured against the baseline.
 - Document conservation actions and monitor biodiversity outcomes.
- Management impacts outside the geographically-defined area must be at least biodiversity neutral as measured against the baseline.
 - Document assessed impacts and monitor any required mitigation actions.
- Populations of invasive species should be reduced or eliminated within the biodiversity area.
 - Document actions and monitor the status of invasive species.

2.1.2 Use biodiversity sustainably and equitably

Within the biodiversity area, any use of biodiversity must be ecologically sustainable and not undermine the conservation of biodiversity; and any use of biodiversity must be socially equitable and not undermine sustainable development.

The second objective of the CBD is “the sustainable use of its components.” The CBD defines sustainable use as “the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.”

The third objective of the CBD is “the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.” For this Standard, equitable use refers to all the components of biodiversity and not just genetic resources. For example the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity explain that: “The needs of indigenous and local communities who live with and are affected by the use and conservation of biological diversity, along with their contributions to its conservation and sustainable use, should be reflected in the equitable distribution of the benefits from the use of those resources.”

Key criteria & indicators

- The use of biodiversity must be subject to national and international regulations, including, if relevant, listings of endangered species under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna

and Flora and listings of protected areas under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the World Heritage Conventions.

- Document the relevant regulations regarding use and how these are adhered to in biodiversity area.
- As appropriate, the plan may include voluntary environmental and social standards and schemes for the sustainable and equitable production of goods or services so long as these do not undermine the conservation of biodiversity or sustainable development.
 - Document the use of such standards and schemes within the area and monitor potential impacts on biodiversity.

2.2 Biodiversity Area Management Requirements

2.2.1 Geographically-defined area

The precisely boundaries of the biodiversity area and its size must be specified. GIS coordinates and a topological map must be included with the biodiversity area nomination.

2.2.2 Responsible management authority

The biodiversity area must have a responsible management authority with clear rights to manage the area. Evidence of the manager's authority must be included with the nomination or within the two-year nomination period.

The management authority must demonstrate the competency and capacity to deliver biodiversity positive outcomes in the area.

2.2.3 Baseline assessment

A thorough biodiversity baseline assessment of the area including stakeholder consultations must be undertaken and submitted for registration and certification. Evidence of this assessment must be reflected in the set of biodiversity actions included in the area-based management plan.

2.2.4 Management plan

The responsible management authority must establish a management plan with a set of biodiversity positive actions. The management plan must include a monitoring and evaluation protocol with performance targets and indicators in relation to the baseline assessment.

The management plan must be submitted for registration and certification. It will be available to the public on the online registry.

2.2.5 Reporting

Once a biodiversity area is registered or certified, annual performance reports on the implementation of the management plan must be submitted. These will be available to the public on the online registry.

Transparency with respect to biodiversity outcomes and also with respect to adaptive management undertaken in response to lessons learned and to unexpected environmental, economic and social developments is expected.

3. The Biodiversity Area Certification Process

The first step in the certification process is to nominate a geographically-defined area. This is followed by undertaking a baseline assessment and designing a management plan. Once the plan is approved, the biodiversity area can be registered and, as appropriate, certified.

Step 1: Nominate an area

To nominate an area as a biodiversity area, the responsible management authority must submit a nomination report as set out in Annex D. This report is used to establish the eligibility of area. Once nominated, the manager will have a two-year period in which to become registered or certified.

Step 2: Design the management plan (up to 2 years)

Within the two-year design period, the responsible management authority must undertake a thorough baseline assessment including stakeholder consultations. Based on this assessment, the manager will design a biodiversity area management plan with a set of biodiversity actions and a protocol for monitoring and evaluation.

During this period, the area authority will have the option to state publicly that the area has been nominated as a biodiversity area. Alternatively, if the authority prefers confidentiality during this period, the online registry will simply state that there has been a nomination within a broad region such as Africa.

Step 3: Register and certify the biodiversity area

By the end of the two-year design phase, a biodiversity area management plan must be submitted and approved.

If the responsible management authority chooses to self-assess the plan and its implementation of the plan, then the area will be listed on the public registry as a 'registered' biodiversity area.

For the biodiversity area to be certified, the authority will need to request independent third party verification of the baseline assessment and management plan. A qualified certification auditor will then be contracted to undertake an audit of the baseline assessment and management plan. This will include a visit to the nominated area and consultations with stakeholders. Once verified by the auditor, the area will be registered publically as a 'certified' biodiversity area.

Step 4: Manage the biodiversity area (5 years)

Registration or certification of a biodiversity area will be valid for a 5-year period. Submission of annual performance reports will be required to maintain the registration or certification.

For certified biodiversity areas, annually an independent third party auditor will verify performance through a review of published reports and, as may be required, consultations with stakeholders.

If the land manager fails to implement the plan, then the biodiversity area will be put on a public warning list. If this situation is not rectified within a year, registration or certification will be cancelled.

In the 5th year, the management authority may submit an updated management plan to continue the status as a registered or certified biodiversity area for a subsequent five-year period. For a certified biodiversity area, the updated plan will need to be audited including a visit to the area and consultations with stakeholders.

4. Guidance for Biodiversity Area Management

This section highlights some of the guidance available to assist a responsible management authority in nominating and registering a biodiversity area. **More guidance, including links to documents and websites, is available in the online GDI Reference Library:**

- <http://gdi.earthmind.net/library>

As every area on our planet is unique in terms of ecosystems and species, land tenure and land uses, and local communities and local economies, responsible management authorities will need to apply a variety of methodologies and approaches to ensure biodiversity positive outcomes. Registration or certification will ensure that the management plan for these outcomes is compliant with the Biodiversity Standard set out in Section 2 and thus with the internationally-agreed objectives and guidance of the CBD. It will ensure that the authority systematically monitors, evaluates and publically reports on its implementation.

With respect to registering biodiversity areas, official guidance provided from the CBD takes priority. Secondly, as appropriate to the area, official guidance provide from other multilateral biodiversity-related conventions can be used. Such official guidance usually comes from decisions of the COPs of the various biodiversity-related conventions.¹ The biodiversity-related conventions include the following:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

¹ <http://www.cbd.int/brc/>

- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- World Heritage Convention

Thirdly, additional guidance for designing biodiversity area management plans, particularly with respect to sustainable and equitable use, can come from established voluntary environmental and social standards. One important grouping of these voluntary initiatives is the membership of the ISEAL Alliance.²

4.1 Guidance on biodiversity area management objectives

The management objectives are the core of biodiversity area management. They provide the thematic focus for undertaking a baseline assessment with stakeholder consultations, for determining the biodiversity actions to be included in the management plan, and for designing the targets and indicators for monitoring, reporting and verifying the biodiversity outcomes.

4.1.1 Conservation of biodiversity

The central guidance from the CBD for the conservation of biodiversity is known as the Ecosystem Approach. The CBD and the other biodiversity-related conventions, however, provide further guidance regarding actions which a land manager could undertake to conserve or restore biodiversity. The global conservation community also provides additional guidance. These include the following:

Beginners' Guide to using the Ecosystem Approach (CBD): A strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

Benefits of Sustainable Land Management (UNCCD): Highlights local, regional and global benefits of sustainable land management (SLM).

CITES Appendices (CITES): Roughly 5,000 species of animals and 29,000 species of plants are protected by CITES against over-exploitation through international trade. They are listed in the three CITES Appendices. The species are grouped in the Appendices according to how threatened they are by international trade.

Climate Change Adaptation Database (CBD): Provides web-based guidance on the integration of biodiversity within adaptation planning. It gathers information tools and case studies from a number of relevant partners.

Good practice guidelines for High Conservation Value assessments (HCV Network): Sets out good practices for the identification and management of High Conservation Values (HCVs), and HCV forests and areas.

Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species (CBD): Intended to assist governments to control invasive alien species, as an integral part of conservation and economic development. They comprise 15 principles on prevention, intentional and unintentional introduction, and mitigation of impacts.

² <http://www.isealalliance.org/>

IUCN Red List of Endangered Species (IUCN): Widely recognized as the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species.

Migratory Species Appendices (CMS): Migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on Appendix I of the Convention. Migratory species that need or would significantly benefit from international co-operation are listed in Appendix II.

Principles and Guidelines for Wetland Restoration (Ramsar): Provides a step-by-step process guiding the identification, development and implementation of a restoration project.

Towards effective protected area systems: An action guide to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas (CBD): Intended to assist protected area managers and policy makers in governments, NGOs, communities and everyone else committed to ensuring that protected areas fulfil their potential as cornerstones for biodiversity conservation and as pillars for achieving sustainable development.

World Heritage List (WHC): The World Heritage List includes 936 properties forming part of the cultural and natural heritage which the World Heritage Committee considers as having outstanding universal value.

4.1.2 Sustainable & equitable use

The CBD offers guidance on both sustainable use and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity. Regarding equitable use, the CBD process is particularly focused on the use of genetic resources. There are also an array of standards and certification schemes for the production and harvesting of biodiversity-based goods and services ranging from agriculture to wild harvesting to tourism. This section provides a small selection of key guidance documents and sources for more information.

Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (CBD): A framework for advising stakeholders on how they can ensure that their use of the components of biodiversity will not lead to long-term biodiversity declines, but will instead promote conservation and contribute to poverty alleviation. Applying to both consumptive and non-consumptive uses of biodiversity, the Principles and Guidelines take into account issues related to policies, laws and regulations; management of biodiversity; socio-economic conditions; and information, research and education.

Business and Biodiversity Tools and Mechanisms (CBD): Online database of business and biodiversity-related guidance on certification, best practices, regulations, standards, and tools and mechanisms, including over 60 potentially useful certification schemes for biodiversity-based goods and services.

Existing instruments, guidelines, codes of conduct and tools addressing ABS (CBD): An online overview of instruments, guidelines, codes of conducts, policies and other tools developed for different types of users of genetic resources to assist with the implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol.

Fairtrade International Standards (Fairtrade International): Designed to tackle poverty and empower producers in the poorest countries in the world.

FairWild Standard (Version 2.0) (FairWild): Provides standard for sustainable wild plant collection operations wishing to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable collection, social responsibility and fair trade principles.

Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development (CBD): A comprehensive instrument for managing tourism activities in an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable manner. The guidelines emphasize a consultative approach involving multiple stakeholders, and are structured around ten steps, from development of an overall vision to implementation of adaptive management programmes.

4.2 Guidance on specifying the area & its management authority

Online services such as Google or Bing can be used to determine the exact coordinates of the management area and assist in the production of a topographical map. Managers in need of credible expert advice on conservation and development may want to consult the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) which has government and non-government member organisations and commission experts across the world.

Google Maps (Google): Can be used to pinpoint the location of the management area with latitude and longitude coordinates.

IUCN: An international union of conservation and development expertise in its members, commissions and secretariat.

4.3 Guidance on baseline assessment

The CBD guidance can be found in its Ecosystem Approach. NGOs such as Conservation International (CI) are experienced in undertaking assessments, particularly with respect to native species. Financial institutions such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC) can provide guidance on engaging stakeholders.

The Ecosystem Approach Advanced User Guide (CBD): Explains the type of actions that need to be taken and why these are important for meeting all the principles of the ecosystem approach.

Rapid Biodiversity Assessment (CI): A means of quickly collecting information on the species present in a given area; includes a Tool Kit providing information needed to plan, design, implement and publish rapid biodiversity surveys.

Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook for Companies Doing Business in Emerging Markets (IFC): Provides the reader with the good practice “essentials” for managing stakeholder relationships in a dynamic context, where unexpected events can and do occur, and facts on the ground change.

Voluntary Guidelines on Biodiversity-Inclusive Impact Assessment (CBD): Provides advice on the incorporation of biodiversity-related concerns into new or existing environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) procedures.

4.4 Guidance on monitoring, evaluation & reporting

Regarding monitoring and evaluation, international agencies such as IUCN and the World Bank provide useful guidelines. The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is the main source for guidance on environmental and social reporting.

Approach for Reporting on Ecosystem Services (GRI): Looks at emerging thinking around ecosystem services and gives organizations options for reporting. It outlines the ways that companies can monitor and report their relationship with ecosystem services.

Biodiversity: A GRI Reporting Resource (GRI): Assists reporting organizations to understand biodiversity issues; the relationship to their activities and operations; discusses how the GRI Guidelines can be used to report on biodiversity; and provides further resources to help organizations with their biodiversity reporting.

Evaluating Effectiveness: A Framework for Assessing Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas (IUCN): Presents a common framework, which provides a consistent basis for designing assessment systems, gives guidance about what to assess, and provides broad criteria for assessment.

Guidelines for Monitoring and Evaluation for Biodiversity Projects (World Bank): A 1998 document intended primarily to assist World Bank task teams and consultants in the design and implementation of monitoring and evaluation plans for biodiversity conservation projects or projects with biodiversity components.

5. Fees

During the two-year pilot phase of the Biodiversity Area Certification Process (2012-2013), the following pilot fee structure will be tested.

All fees are in U.S. Dollars (USD) and are payable in full at the time of submitting documentation for GDI nomination, registration or certification. The management authority would be required to pay the nomination fee and either the registration or certification fee. The fees are non-refundable.

- **Biodiversity area nomination** - \$120
- **Biodiversity area registration** - \$2,400 plus \$0.12 per hectare per year for 5 years
- **Biodiversity area certification** - \$12,000 plus \$0.12 per hectare per year for 5 years

Fee revenue is used to cover the registry costs including the contracting of third-party independent certifiers.

Annex A: CBD policy & certified biodiversity areas

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which was launched nearly 20 years ago at the 1992 Rio Conference, sets out an internationally-agreed agenda for the conservation of biodiversity in the context of the development priorities of developing nations. It includes a commitment by all nations to provide financial resources and incentives in support of its implementation as well as a commitment by developed countries to provide new and additional funding to developing countries to further support its implementation. Since 1992, adequate resource mobilisation has remained a key challenge which has been addressed at each of the ten CBD Conferences of the Parties (COPs).

Notably, at COP9 in May 2008, the Parties agreed to a new Strategy for Resource Mobilisation which includes a focus on the development of innovative financial mechanisms for biodiversity to engage the private sector. COP9 called for "studies on approaches to develop markets and payment schemes for ecosystem services at local, national and international levels", and asked Parties "to improve actions and co-operation for enhancing the engagement of the business community (...) in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention", and "to come forward with new and innovative financing mechanisms in support of the strategy for resource mobilization." In response to these decisions, the idea for a Green Development Initiative (GDI) was born in May 2008.

At CBD COP10 in October 2010, the Parties agreed to an important, new **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020** with five goals and 20 targets. Target 20 provided further official support to the COP9 strategy for resource mobilisation and thus for efforts such as the GDI to innovate financing modalities:

- **Target 20:** By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilisation should increase substantially from the current levels.

It is further expected that biodiversity area certification will contribute to the following five targets of the Strategic Plan:

- **Target 4:** By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.
- **Target 7:** By 2020, areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- **Target 11:** By 2020, ...areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably-managed, ecologically-representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

- **Target 14:** By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded.
- **Target 18:** By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected.

For CBD COP11 in India in 2012, the GDI plans to update to the Parties on the progress in development the Biodiversity Area Standard and Certification Process in the context of these strategic targets and relevant agenda items on resource mobilisation and business engagement.

Annex B: The business case for biodiversity area certification

Unlike internationally-traded commodities like maize, gold, petroleum and even carbon, biodiversity cannot be easily measured and weighed. It makes little sense to speak of a bushel, a troy ounce, a barrel or a metric tonne of biodiversity. Because biodiversity everywhere is unique in terms of ecosystems, species and habitats, it cannot easily be commoditised and traded, like we have done for greenhouse gas emissions.

Nevertheless, there is a clear 'market' for biodiversity. The international demand for biodiversity conservation is evidenced not only by the support for biodiversity-related conventions and the worldwide programmes of environment and development NGOs, but also by the increasing demands from consumers and investors for companies to be biodiversity-responsible. To facilitate this demand, the GDI approach is creating a simple area-based unit which can be used to mobilise voluntary support for biodiversity - **a registered or certified biodiversity hectare**.

Behind a biodiversity hectare is an international standard and certification scheme which requires responsible management authorities to undertake biodiversity actions, to measure and evaluate the impacts of these actions, and to report publically on their performance. Biodiversity area registration and certification brings accountability and transparency with respect to the supply of biodiversity positive outcomes in clearly-defined, responsibly-managed areas. In so doing, it makes it easier for demanders of biodiversity conservation to provide direct support to those who are supplying biodiversity conservation.

There are a number of substantive reasons why businesses in particular might want to adopt **biodiversity area registration and certification**. These include:

- Government regulations
- Government relations
- Investor requirements
- Supply chain sustainability
- Corporate social responsibility

Businesses may pay for biodiversity area registration or certification in response to biodiversity-related national regulations. For example, Section 404 of the US Clean Water Act regulates the discharge of material into wet ecosystems with a goal to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters.” Supporting certified biodiversity areas might serve to support national biodiversity strategies and thus improve a company’s relations with host governments. Businesses may also finance certified biodiversity areas in response to an investor’s obligation, such as the requirement of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation that “plans for projects with particularly large potential adverse impact must be accompanied by detailed environmental management plans.”

Ensuring that production inputs are sourced from areas which are managed in a biodiversity-responsible way will be of a particularly importance for industries which have significant landscape dependencies in their supply chains, such as the food, bottled water, minerals and energy sectors. Furthermore, support for certified biodiversity areas can provide a transparent way for companies to demonstrate their social responsibility with respect to reversing the loss of biodiversity.

Biodiversity area certification provides important opportunities as well for conservation and development NGOs. These NGOs might use this approach to validate and raise funds for their field-based programmes. Likewise, multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies might require biodiversity area registration or certification to validate their field-based grants.

By establishing a certified hectare as unit for biodiversity-responsible management, the biodiversity area certification progress enables transparency and accountability which in turn is expected to incentivise increased voluntary market-based support for conserving our planet, hectare by hectare.

Annex C: Use of terms

This section provides a list of relevant terms and their definitions for use in biodiversity area management. If available, the official definitions from the CBD are used.

Adaptive management: A systematic process of continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of existing programs (IUCN)

Biodiversity or biological diversity: The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. (CBD)

Biodiversity area: a geographically-defined area which is managed to achieve the CBD objectives of biodiversity conservation and the sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity in the context of sustainable development. (GDI)

Biological resources: Includes genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity. (CBD)

Climate Change: A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods. (UNFCCC)

Consensus: General agreement, characterised by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests. Note - Consensus should be the result of a process seeking to take into account the views of interested parties, particularly those directly affected, and to reconcile any conflicting arguments. It need not imply unanimity. (ISEAL)

Domesticated or cultivated species: Species in which the evolutionary process has been influenced by humans to meet their needs. (CBD)

Dryland: Arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, other than polar and sub-polar regions, in which the ratio of annual precipitation to potential evapotranspiration falls within the range from 0.05 to 0.65. (UNCCD)

Ecosystem: A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit. (CBD)

Ex-situ conservation: Conservation of components of biological diversity outside their natural habitats. (CBD)

Genetic material: Any material of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity. (CBD)

Genetic resources: Genetic material of actual or potential value. (CBD)

Habitat: The place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs. (CBD)

High Conservation Values (HCVs): Encompass the whole scale from species to landscape, and include exceptional or critical ecological attributes, ecosystem services and social functions. (HCV Resource Network)

Index: A numerical scale used to compare variables with one another or with some reference number. (Biodiversity Indicators Partnership)

Indicator: A measure or metric based on verifiable data that conveys information about more than itself. (Biodiversity Indicators Partnership)

In-situ conservation: The conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties. (CBD)

Invasive alien species: Alien species that become invasive are considered to be a main direct driver of biodiversity loss across the globe. (Global Invasive Species Programme)

Landscapes: A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area. (IUCN, related the CBD concept of 'ecological complexes' in the above definition of biodiversity)

Measure: A standard unit used to express size, amount or degree. (Biodiversity Indicators Partnership)

Metric: A system or standard of measurement. (Biodiversity Indicators Partnership)

Protected area: A geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives. (CBD, compatible with a biodiversity area but with a greater traditional focus on conservation than on sustainable use)

Responsible management authority: the agent - individual, communal, corporate or public - with clearly recognised legal or customary rights to manage a geographically-defined area. (In cases of uncertainty or dispute, a clarifying letter from the national CBD focal point will be required.)

Sustainable use: The use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. (CBD)

Stakeholders: Persons, groups or institutions with interests in a project or programme. Primary stakeholders are those ultimately affected, either positively (beneficiaries) or negatively (for example, those involuntarily resettled). Secondary stakeholders are the intermediaries in the aid delivery process. (FAO)

Standard: A document that provides for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods, with which compliance is not mandatory. (WTO)

Wetlands: Areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres. (Ramsar)

Annex D: Biodiversity area nomination

Eligibility to become a registered biodiversity area is decided on the basis of a nomination report which must include the following sections.

1. The nominated biodiversity area

Submit precise information on the nominated biodiversity area, including boundaries and size in hectares.

Include GIS coordinates and a general description of the area's natural and built features.

Attach a topographical map.

2. The responsible management authority

Submit details of the responsible manager authority and supporting evidence.

Alternatively, submit the plans for establishing the management authority, e.g. through a cooperative agreement, during the two-year design period.

Include details on the manager's capacity to design and implement a biodiversity area management plan.

3. The biodiversity area baseline assessment

Submit a 'rapid' baseline assessment and the plans for undertaking a through baseline assessment with stakeholder consultations during the two-year design period.

Describe the current status of the nominated area with respect to biodiversity strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the context of sustainable development.

4. The envisioned biodiversity positive outcomes

Submit a signed statement on the envisioned biodiversity positive outcomes expected from implementing a biodiversity area management plan with respect to both the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable & equitable use of biodiversity.

Provide a signed statement by at least one independent biodiversity expert in support of these expected outcomes. This expert could be a member of an IUCN Commission, and an employee of an IUCN government or non-government member with area-specific knowledge and expertise.