

IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas

“Promote the “Green list” (IUCN World Parks Congress) in riparian states to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of parks managing bodies created” is the Flagship initiative under the Objective 2 of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD): “Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development”.

Background

The development of the IUCN Green List was supported by Resolution WCC-2012-41 of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2012, in response to calls for more focus on the quality of protected area sites and systems, especially effective management and equitable governance that can help secure conservation outcomes. Such concerns about protected area effectiveness date back to at least the World Parks Congress held in Bali in 1982.

At the global level, IUCN coordinated a Green List pilot phase in eight countries between 2012 and 2014 and announced the first protected areas to meet the criteria during the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney in November 2014. Seven of the total 25 areas recognized across the world were located in Mediterranean countries (France, Italy, and Spain) which are also Contracting Parties to the

Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, including the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Protocol. In 2017, the IUCN Council formally approved the Green List Standard Version 1.1 and mandated its further implementation by IUCN, members, and partners, worldwide.

IUCN-MED is officially accredited as a UN Environment / Mediterranean Action Plan Partner and MCSD Member. The Centre’s mission is to influence, encourage and assist Mediterranean societies to conserve and use sustainably the natural resources of the region and work with IUCN members and cooperate with all other agencies that share the objectives of IUCN. As such, IUCN Med is collaborating with the Mediterranean Action Plan and has played an active role in the process of mainstreaming environment into the MSSD.

Objectives

The IUCN Green List is a global programme aiming to achieve and promote effective, equitable, and successful protected and conserved areas by highlighting best practices, and providing a benchmark for progress towards effective and equitable management.

Its overarching objective is to increase the number of protected and conserved areas that are effectively and equitably managed and deliver conservation outcomes, contributing to sustainable development and towards meeting Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

“By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas 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 landscape and seascape.”

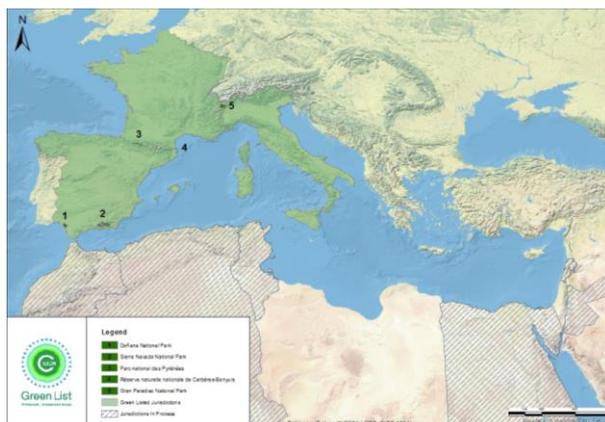
Leadership and partnership

IUCN implements the Green List programme with many partners around the world, including the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre and WWF. The programme is supported by multiple donors including Germany’s Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) under the International Climate Initiative (IKI), and the European Life Programme.

In the Mediterranean area, IUCN supports the Green List through its regional offices: IUCN-MED, IUCN-Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA), IUCN-Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECARO). The programme is implemented in collaboration with several institutions that are committed to coordinate the process at the respective national level, among which Europarc Italy, Europarc Spain, the IUCN French Committee in Europe and the World Commission of Protected Areas in the North Africa region.

IUCN is also promoting the application of the Green List Standard to Natura 2000 sites and supporting the programme's implementation in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. Relevant training has been provided in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia. The four countries have committed to creating a regional group of experts for launching the initiative at regional scale and trainings with national stakeholders will be conducted in 2018.

New Green Listed sites in the Mediterranean region are expected to start the process in 2018. A Green List session will be organized during the CBD COP 14 in November 2018 in Egypt, in collaboration with the IUCN member states, and will focus on partners and IUCN members from the Middle East and North Africa regions. Support will also be provided to Arabic countries in joining the Green List programme, focusing on Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and the United Arab Emirates.



The Green List programme in the Mediterranean region

Main achievements and the way forward

At the heart of the Green List programme is the voluntary global Sustainability Standard providing a global benchmark for effective management and governance quality that motivates improved performance and successful achievement of conservation objectives. The Standard includes seventeen guiding criteria that describe successful conservation and equitable governance in protected and conserved areas, addressing four themes: good governance, sound design, sound planning, and effective management.

The Green List Standard is implemented through a jurisdictional approach, tailored to each country or region where it is adopted. The programme allows for flexibility for each jurisdiction to implement the global standard while reflecting local contexts. It also assures that mechanisms and procedures in

place ensure independence and credibility of decision-making, through an independent assurance services provider (Accreditation Services International) tasked with providing assurance of the programme globally.

Areas that voluntarily commit to achieving IUCN Green List status must demonstrate and maintain successful implementation of the global Sustainability Standard throughout three defined phases: the application phase, the candidate phase, and the green list phase. Progression to each phase is independently evaluated by a technical Expert Assessment Group for the Green List (EAGL) and a process reviewer, typically established at the national level. In each phase, the views and consensus of stakeholders and public opinion are factored into the area's ongoing performance.

The Green List is an important instrument for Protected Areas:

- It requires the demonstration of measurable conservation outcomes that should be appropriate to the site level and its natural values;
- It represents an approach through which an area can define an appropriate, shared and adaptive management plan that engages with stakeholders;
- It includes periodical monitoring obligations and can therefore help determine whether conservation outcomes are being achieved;
- It allows working and comparing in different contexts, both at site and biogeographic level, as it is a shared and transparent methodology.



Resources

- IUCN 'Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas': www.iucn.org/greenlist
 2017 Overview Brochure: <https://tinyurl.com/y8fwodpe>
 Green list user manual version 1.0: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8sut2m>
 Standard: <https://tinyurl.com/y9nvez4x>
 LIFE Green List for Natura 2000 project: <https://tinyurl.com/y8hq17so>
 Barcelona Convention SPA/BD Protocol: <https://tinyurl.com/y8mreueg>

United Nations Environment Programme
 Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit
 Barcelona Convention Secretariat
www.unepmap.org