



NATIONAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Standards for inclusion in the National Reserve System

A fundamental requirement of any area's eligibility for inclusion within the National Reserve System is that it must meet the IUCN definition of a 'protected area'.

This is defined as:

'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.'¹

Standards for inclusion in the National Reserve System

<p>VALUABLE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must enhance the comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness of the National Reserve System • must be established and managed for the primary purpose of protection and maintenance of biological diversity with associated ecosystem services and cultural values
<p>SECURE THROUGH LEGAL OR OTHER EFFECTIVE MEANS</p>	<p>Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be statutorily defined and resourced <p>Private</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be reserved in perpetuity • any change in management status must have Ministerial or statutory approval <p>Indigenous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must have customary law protection with Traditional Owners holding a non-transferable interest in the land with a commitment to its long-term protective management • must be a commitment from Traditional Owners to discuss any changes with the Minister
<p>WELL- MANAGED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be classified and managed in accordance with one or more IUCN management categories (I–VI) • must be adaptively managed to minimise loss of biodiversity values • effectiveness of management must be monitored and evaluated in a manner open to public scrutiny
<p>CLEARLY DEFINED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the area must be able to be accurately identified on maps and on the ground

The terms *legal or other effective means* are used in describing how a protected area is established under the National Reserve System, as follows:

Legal means:

Land is brought under control of an Act of Parliament, specialising in land conservation practices, and requires a Parliamentary process to extinguish the protected area or excise portions from it.

Other effective means:

For contract, covenant, agreements or other legal instrument, the clauses must include provisions to cover:

- long-term management—ideally this should be in perpetuity but, if this not possible, then the minimum should be at least 99 years
- the agreement to remain in place unless both parties agree to its termination
- a process to revoke the protected area or excise portions from it is defined; for National Reserve System areas created through contribution of public funding, this process should involve public input when practicable
- the intent of the contract should, where applicable, be further reinforced through a perpetual covenant on the title of the land
- ‘well-tested’ legal or other means, including non-gazetted means, such as through recognised traditional rules under which Indigenous Protected Areas (community conserved areas) operate or the policies of established non-government organisations.

¹ Dudley 2008, *Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories*. Gland, Switzerland.