



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.'<sup>1</sup>

## Standards for inclusion in the National Reserve System

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

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Dudley 2008, *Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories*. Gland, Switzerland.