

# The Importance of Protected Areas in Conservation of Biodiversity

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## Abstract

The expanded mission of protected areas (national parks, wilderness areas, community conserved areas, nature reserves and so on) from the view of biodiversity conservation is to improve the human welfare, as well contributing to the people's livelihoods, particularly at the local level. The protected areas can maintain vegetation, soil conservation, stabilizing climate change, preventing desertification and dust storms, and reducing the suspended solids in air that create major respiratory problems in children which is one of the global challenges. Just as environmental degradation and pollution are damaging to health, conversely conscious ecosystem management can have positive health effects. The result is a shift in favor of protected areas allowing local resource use but here is one important barrier-the management of many of the earliest protected areas could catch up with modern conservation as well. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (now IUCN – The World Conservation Union; [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)) was begun in 1948 with a charter to develop worldwide standards for conservation and the World Wildlife Fund.

This paper argues that there is a convincing case for greater investment in expanded and better- connected protected area systems, under a range of governance and management regimes that are specifically designed to counter the threats of climate change, increased demand and altered patterns of resource use. The new agenda for protected areas requires greater inclusivity of a broader spectrum of actors and rights holders, with growing attention to landscapes and seascapes protected by indigenous peoples, local communities, private owners and other actors which complement conservation areas managed by state agencies. Greater attention also needs to be focused on ways to integrate and mainstream protected areas into sustainable development, including promotion of “green” infrastructure as a strategic part of responses to climate change.