Categories of Areas protected by Nature Protection Law in Austria

- Biosphärenpark
- Europaschutzgebiet
- Geschützter Grünbestand
- Geschützter Landschaftsteil
- Geschützter Lebensraum
- Geschütztes Naturgebilde/Naturdenkmal von örtlicher Bedeutung
- Landschaftsschutzgebiet
- Nationalpark
- Naturdenkmal
- Naturpark
- Naturschutzgebiet
- Pflanzenschutzgebiet
Categories of Areas protected by Nature Protection Law in Austria

- Ruhegebiet/Ruhezone
- Sonderschutzgebiet
EUROPARC Federation

- "Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe,"
- was founded in 1973
- 500 members
- Headquarters in Grafenau (Germany) and Brussels

„The aim of the organisation was then and still is to help protected areas fulfil their role as preservers of the natural beauty of Europe in all its variety for us to experience and enjoy, to encourage cooperation and exchange between their managers and staff, and to promote their aims and work across Europe.“
The key aims of the EUROPARC Federation are:

- Promote good practice in the management of protected areas
- Facilitate the establishment of new protected areas
- Raise the profile of protected areas as a vital means of safeguarding many of the continent's most valuable natural heritage assets, and thereby to increase support for their future protection
- Influence the future development of public policies and programmes, especially with the European Union, to the benefit of protected areas' objectives.
"According to international understanding, national parks are large, natural landscapes of national importance. They protect ecosystems which have not been materially altered by human exploitation. In national parks, nature is allowed to develop freely, largely undisturbed by human influence. These parks serve educational and recreational purposes, enabling visitors to encounter and experience nature and relax in unspoilt surroundings. Economic exploitation of natural resources such as minerals, hydroelectric power generation, forestry, agriculture and hunting are inadmissible in national parks. In national parks, plants and animals are able to live according to their own laws, even trees are allowed to die a natural death – in short, nature is left to be nature."
“Regional or nature parks on the other hand are large cultural landscapes, areas of particular aesthetic appeal, the result of man’s interaction with nature over the centuries. They serve as recreation areas and are maintained through the continuation of traditional, low-intensity methods of cultivation and care of the land. Further aims of these parks include the protection of historical sites as well as local folklore and traditions.”
Various names

- *managed nature reserves* (Bahamas)
- *strict nature reserves* (Bhutan)
- *nature reserves* (Ontario)
- *national nature reserves* (Czech Republik)
- *nature conservation areas* (Japan)
- *strict natural reserves* (Sri Lanka)
World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WCMC

- Database and Geographic Information System on the world's protected areas
- 30,350 records of protected areas
- 13,915 records of other designated areas which do not qualify as protected areas according to the IUCN definition
- 16,288 records of areas of uncertain status
- http://www.unep-wcmc.org/
Following kinds of information:

- text describing the protected areas system of each country, together with definitions of protected area designations based on the national legislation

- budget and staffing levels of some protected area agencies

- records of individual protected areas (and other designated areas)

- text describing some individual protected areas (information sheets)
The six IUCN Protected Area Management Categories

- Ia: area managed mainly for science or wilderness protection
- Ib: area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II: area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III: area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV: area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V: area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation or recreation
- VI: area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural resources
History of categorisation

- International Conference for the Protection of Fauna and Flora, London 1933
- Western Hemisphere Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation, 1942
- UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), 1959
- First World Conference on National Parks, Seattle 1962
- 1966, IUCN published the second version of the UN list
- The 1978 IUCN Report on Categories, Objectives and Criteria for Protected Areas
The protected areas categories system advocated by IUCN in 1978

- **Group A**: categories for which CNPPA will take special responsibility
  - I Scientific Reserve
  - II National Park
  - II Natural Monument/National Landmark
  - IV Nature Conservation Reserve
  - V Protected Landscape

- **Group B**: other categories of importance to IUCN, but not exclusively in the scope of CNPPA
  - VI Resource Reserve
  - VII Anthropological Reserve
  - VIII Multiple Use Management Area

- **Group C**: categories that are part of international programmes
  - IX Biosphere Reserve
  - X World Heritage Site (Natural)
Definitions of the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories

CATEGORY Ia
Strict Nature Reserve: protected area managed mainly for science

Area of land and/or sea possessing some outstanding or representative ecosystems, geological or physiological features and/or species, available primarily for scientific research and/or environmental monitoring.

CATEGORY Iib
Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection

Large area of unmodified or slightly modified land, and/or sea, retaining its natural character and influence, without permanent or significant habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition.
Definitions of the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories

CATEGORY II
National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation

Natural area of land and/or sea, designated to (a) protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations, (b) exclude exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation of the area and (c) provide a foundation for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities, all of which must be environmentally and culturally compatible.
Definitions of the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories

CATEGORY III
Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features

Area containing one, or more, specific natural or natural/cultural feature which is of outstanding or unique value because of its inherent rarity, representative or aesthetic qualities or cultural significance.
Definitions of the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories

CATEGORY IV
Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention

Area of land and/or sea subject to active intervention for management purposes so as to ensure the maintenance of habitats and/or to meet the requirements of specific species.
Definitions of the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories

CATEGORY V

Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation

Area of land, with coast and sea as appropriate, where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant aesthetic, ecological and/or cultural value, and often with high biological diversity. Safeguarding the integrity of this traditional interaction is vital to the protection, maintenance and evolution of such an area.
Definitions of the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories

CATEGORY VI
Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

Area containing predominantly unmodified natural systems, managed to ensure long-term protection and maintenance of biological diversity, while providing at the same time a sustainable flow of natural products and services to meet community needs.
Examples IUCN Categories

- **Ia** – Swiss National Park; Nature Reserve Floarna (Sweden)
- **Ib** - Bolshoi Arkticheskiy Nature Reserve Taimyr-Peninsula (North-Siberia)
- **II** – Nationalpark Donau-Auen
- **III** – Victoria Falls
- **IV** - Allgäuer Hochalpen; Amrumer Dünen
- **V** – Peak District National Park
- **VI** – Tonda Wildlife Management Area (Papua-New Guinea)
Information gaps, limitations and explanatory notes

- The size is unknown for 23,428 (23%) protected areas
- The date of establishment is unknown for 48,654 protected areas
- IUCN management categories have not been assigned to 34,036 protected areas
- Geographic co-ordinates are still lacking for 20,634 sites
- UNEP-WCMC does not yet have the geographical boundaries (polygons) of 74,512 protected areas
Information gaps, limitations and explanatory notes

• Translation of some languages, such as Chinese and Arabic, into English can lead to unintentional duplication of site records when updates are received with apparently different site names, which are actually transliteration variants

• The WDPA is attempting to incorporate privately owned and managed protected areas