

IUCN protected area management categories

Statement of Compliance for

Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) wildlife reserves

Introduction to Statements of Compliance

Statements of Compliance are an innovation of the IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom's *Putting Nature on the Map* project. The project has developed guidance on the use of the IUCN definition of a protected area and the assignment of the associated management categories and governance types¹. The guidance suggests that short but authoritative Statements of Compliance are produced for a conservation site or group of sites.

For groups of sites designated for conservation under one overriding piece of legislation or public policy the statements should concentrate on whether the sites meets the IUCN definition of a protected area. For statutory designations the Statements of Compliance should review all relevant legislation, focussing on the priority given to nature conservation in the long-term. For sites not covered by legislation the statements should review the significance for nature conservation of all relevant public policy positions that specifically affect the area.

In addition to reviewing legislation or policy in relation to the IUCN definition of a protected area, the Statement of Compliance can also assign sites to IUCN management category and governance type. In this case the statements should also provide an overview of current management objectives in particular in relation to prioritising nature conservation and summarize examples of current management practice that demonstrate the priority given to nature conservation and the ambition and vision for nature conservation in the future.

Note: Statements of Compliance should be prepared with full reference to the 2008 Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories (see footnote for details)

The Statement of Compliance below has been prepared for a group of sites some of which are defined in legislation and others in a non-statutory context.

¹ Dudley, N (Editor) (2008) Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. X + 86pp. <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/PAPS-016.pdf>

AND

IUCN NCUK (2012); *Putting nature on the map - identifying protected areas in the UK: A handbook to help identify protected areas in the UK and assign the IUCN management categories and governance types to them*, IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom, UK <http://www.iucn-uk.org/Portals/0/PNOTM%20Final%20January.pdf>

Background

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland (registered number SC040247) having its registered office at 110 Harbour Side House, Edinburgh EH6 6NF. It is also a Scottish registered charity (charity number SC005792).

The Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) was founded in 1964 to take all appropriate measures to conserve the fauna, flora and all objects of natural history in trust throughout Scotland. With over 33000 members several hundred of whom are actively involved in conservation activities locally, it is the largest voluntary body working for all the wildlife of Scotland. The Trust owns or manages over 120 wildlife reserves on over 20000 hectares of land and campaigns at local and national levels to ensure wildlife is protected and enhanced for future generations to enjoy.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust's vision:

We need a network of healthy, resilient ecosystems supporting expanding communities of native species across large areas of Scotland's land, water and seas. This can be achieved through:

- *Protecting valuable habitats from further loss*
- *Restoring and enhancing degraded habitats*
- *Promoting large-scale, wildlife-rich landscapes*
- *Inspiring and engaging people in wildlife and conservation*

Reserves policy:

The Scottish Wildlife Trust will acquire and maintain a network of wildlife reserves to safeguard a broad representation of wildlife found throughout Scotland, and to act as examples to others and for the public benefit including enjoyment, information and education.

Collectively, the Trust reserves will meet this definition, although not all of the functions stated above will be found on every reserve. The overriding function of the reserves should be for the protection and enhancement of Scottish wildlife.

Management of the Trust reserves reflects the wider local, regional and national habitats and species requirements, contributing to landscape-scale management and policy initiatives which support the conservation of Scottish wildlife.

Our reserves also provide places where people can see, learn about and enjoy wildlife. They also provide a focus for the Trust's members and its activities, helping us encourage more people to understand and engage with the wildlife of Scotland.

The Trust will only dispose of reserves as a last resort, for example where it does not have the resources to manage them to the required standard. It will only dispose of a reserve to an organisation or individual who can demonstrate they have the skills and resources to manage the reserve.

Reserve management:

The Trust maintains its network of over 120 reserves for the benefit of wildlife and people. In particular, we try to use our reserves to demonstrate best practice or innovation to others, as well as meeting all legal and health and safety requirements.

We also maintain an inventory of habitats and species which occur on our reserves. These data will be managed and shared in accordance with the principles outlined by the National Biodiversity Network. The Trust retains the right to withhold any information which it deems sensitive or which could lead to a detrimental impact on the wildlife on its reserves.

Key documents:

Companies Act 1948 Memorandum of Association of The Scottish Wildlife Trust (as amended by Special Resolutions passed on 13 November 1982, 6th October 2001 and 23rd June 2007)

Wildlife Reserves Development Policy adopted by SWT Council 7th June 2012

Facts and Figures – conservation on reserves 2010-11; MacKenzie I (2011) Scottish Wildlife Trust Edinburgh

Our nature, our future - taking action 2012-2017

Natural connections – A vision for re-building Scotland's wildlife (2008) Scottish Wildlife Trust, Edinburgh

Living Landscapes – towards ecosystem-based conservation in Scotland; Hughes, J & Brooks, S (2009), Scottish Wildlife Trust, Edinburgh

SWT's wildlife reserves and the IUCN definition of a protected area

The table uses the main key in the *Putting Nature on the Map Handbook* for identifying if a site meets the IUCN definition of a protected area².

Main elements of IUCN definition	Discussion of element in relation to SWT wildlife reserves
Are the sites in clearly defined geographical areas?	Yes. Each of the 121 SWT wildlife reserves has a boundary and these are mapped digitally. 75 wildlife reserves are, in whole or in part, SSSIs and each SSSI has a legally notified boundary. In Scotland these are publicly available in the Register of SSSIs.
Are they recognised, dedicated and managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature? NB 'nature' includes all levels of biodiversity as well as geodiversity, landforms and broader natural values.	Yes. The SWT Memorandum of Association states "The object for which the Trust is established is to advance the conservation of Scotland's biodiversity for the benefit of present and future generations". Under its Powers "the Trust may; 4.1 safeguard and enhance the range of native habitats and species through the management of wildlife reserves". For those SWT wildlife reserves that are also in whole or part SSSIs, this designation is permanent. Individual SSSI are designated for one or more specified natural features – plants, animal, rocks and landforms; management must give priority to these features but may also support the conservation of other habitats, species, rocks and landforms.
Is the main management objective nature conservation? Other objectives of equal standing may be present but they do not cause conflict, i.e. nature conservation is the priority	Yes. The Wildlife Reserves Development Policy (June 2012) states that "The Scottish Wildlife Trust will acquire and maintain a network of wildlife reserves to safeguard a broad representation of wildlife found throughout Scotland and to act as examples to others and for the public benefit including enjoyment, information and education." Also that "the overriding function of the reserves should be for the protection and enhancement of Scottish wildlife". For those SWT wildlife reserves that are also SSSIs, the priority objective of SSSI designation and management is nature conservation.
Does the designation of the site prevent, or eliminate where necessary, any exploitation or management practice that will be harmful to the objectives of designation?	Yes. The Wildlife Reserves Development Policy (June 2012) states that "the overriding function of the reserves should be for the protection and enhancement of Scottish wildlife". Some wildlife reserves are acquired to prevent development. In addition, 75 SWT wildlife reserves have SSSI statutory designations, some multiple, including SPAs (14), SACs (23) Ramsar (10), NNR (2), NSA (11) and WHS (1). For those sites that are also SSSIs, the designating authorities have various statutory and other means to prevent or eliminate practices that would obstruct achievement of a site's nature conservation objective(s). For example any management operation required out with the management plan, has to be consented by the relevant agency. Similarly some management activities, activities, such as those near water, require an operating licence to be issued by the relevant agency.

² See page 26 of the *Putting Nature on the Map Handbook*

Main elements of IUCN definition	Discussion of element in relation to SWT wildlife reserves
Does the designation of the site aim to maintain, or ideally, increase the degree of naturalness of the ecosystem being protected?	Yes. The SWT Memorandum of Association states under its Powers that “the Trust may; 4.1 safeguard and enhance the range of native habitats and species through the management of wildlife reserves”. For those wildlife reserves that are also SSSIs, the designating authorities monitor and report the condition of SSSI (common standards monitoring) and take action to bring features in to favourable condition. For example damming man made ditches on peat bogs to restore and maintain the water level or felling non-native tree species to create conditions for the natural regeneration of native woodland.
Is the long-term nature conservation ensured through legal or other effective means? E.g. national or international statutory law/ agreement/convention, traditional rules or NGO policy.	Yes, the Trust’s long term objective is to ensure wildlife is protected and enhanced for future generations to enjoy. Each reserve has a Reserve Management Plan that describes the conservation, wildlife value and history of a site. Reserve Management Plans are extensively updated on a 10 year cycle and reviewed annually. 90 SWT wildlife reserves benefit from 25 year management agreements with the Heritage Lottery Fund. For those SWT wildlife reserves that are also SSSIs, these are established in law (Scotland: Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended)); England & Wales: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These legislations are periodically reviewed and updated to address emerging issues.

There are no SWT Marine wildlife reserves.

IUCN Management categories:

Category Ia 0

Category Ib 0

Category II 0

Category III Longhaven Cliffs – is a geological SSSI but SWT’s interest is in the bird nesting habitat so agreed it is a category III as the management objective is for the geology but organisationally it is for the birds.

Category III Seaton Cliffs– is a geological SSSI but SWT’s interest is in the bird nesting habitat so agreed it is a category III as the management objective is for the geology but organisationally it is for the birds.

Category IV All other SWT wildlife reserves

Category V Ben Mor Coigach – Wildlife Reserve which is a very large (6,000ha) and remote upland habitat on which a limited number of local people manage the land for traditional grazing and deer management, to support economic activity, but also as part of a wider landscape scale wildlife conservation initiative.

Category V Isle of Eigg Community owned and managed wildlife reserve on a large scale, where many people live and work managing the land sustainably for both economic return and nature conservation.

IUCN Governance types:

Private Governance is those reserves which are owned or managed by SWT and where only Trust staff and members directly undertake the implementation of the management plan

Private Governance: Addiewell Bing
Private Governance: Ballachuan Hazel Wood
Private Governance: Barnyards Marsh
Private Governance: Blackcraig Wood
Private Governance: Bogburn Flood Lagoons
Private Governance: Brock Wood
Private Governance: Cambus Pools
Private Governance: Cathkin Marsh
Private Governance: Corsehillmuir Wood
Private Governance: Coulnacraig Meadow
Private Governance: Cumbernauld Glen
Private Governance: Eilean na Creige Duibhe
Private Governance: Erraid Wood
Private Governance: Fife Ness Muir
Private Governance: Forest Wood
Private Governance: Fountainbleau Ladypark
Private Governance: Gales Marsh
Private Governance: Garnock Floods
Private Governance: Harray Road End
Private Governance: Hill of White Hamars
Private Governance: Holm of Burghlee
Private Governance: Isle Ristol
Private Governance: Johnston Terrace Garden
Private Governance: Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre
Private Governance: Knockshinnoch Lagoons
Private Governance: Knowetop Lochs
Private Governance: Lawthorn Wood
Private Governance: Linga Holm
Private Governance: Linn Dean
Private Governance: Loch Ardingning
Private Governance: Longridge Moss
Private Governance: Luggiebank Wood
Private Governance: Milkhall Pond
Private Governance: Northside Wood
Private Governance: Oldhall Ponds
Private Governance: Pepper Wood
Private Governance: Perceton Wood
Private Governance: Shewalton Sandpits
Private Governance: Shewalton Wood
Private Governance: Sourlie Wood
Private Governance: The Miley
Private Governance: Thornton Glen
Private Governance: Wallacebank Wood
Private Governance: West Quarry Braes

Shared Governance are those reserves where the management is by a committee/steering group predominantly of non-Trust members or Trust staff OR where the reserve is managed in partnership with the landowner OR in agreement with Scottish Natural Heritage.

Shared Governance: All other SWT reserves

Governance by local community: Isle of Eigg

The Isle of Eigg is managed by the Isle of Eigg Trust on which SWT has one Directorship. The whole island is regarded as a wildlife reserve as part of the sustainable community