

Global Conservation Fund Definition of Effective Management of Protected Areas

The Global Conservation Fund (GCF) finances the creation, expansion and long-term management of protected areas in the world's biodiversity hotspots, high-biodiversity wilderness areas and important marine regions.

For GCF and Conservation International, an effectively managed protected area is one in which the biodiversity conservation objectives set forth in its management plan are met. For the purposes of biodiversity conservation, priority objectives are the maintenance or enhancement of populations of species of global conservation significance and the protection of the habitat on which those species depend. Meeting the objectives of the management plan implicitly requires that resources are sufficient to meet the management needs over the life of the protected area.

- 1) Biodiversity conservation objectives should be identified in the protected area management plan and linked to a biodiversity state indicator. Such indicators allow protected areas to develop a definition of success for biodiversity conservation at each site.
- 2) Species of global conservation significance are populations of globally threatened, congregatory, restricted range and biome-restricted species, which are present above a certain threshold within a single site.
- 3) Robust data on the conservation status and requirements for species of global conservation significance are essential for effective management. However, where data on the species requirements for persistence in a given habitat are not yet known, proxy measures may be used until such data become available.
- 4) Management plans and actions must be focused on ensuring species persistence while also attending to fundamental components that affect the lasting viability of the site (e.g. financial sustainability, capable staff, local support, etc.). These elements will be tracked and monitored using the GCF monitoring framework.