

# IUCN protected area management categories

## Statement of Compliance for

### John Muir Trust (JMT) properties

#### 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 types<sup>1</sup>. 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 meet 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 John Muir Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland (Company No.SC081620), having its Registered Office at Tower House, Station Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5AN, Scotland (registered number SC040247) having its registered office at 110 Harbour Side House, Edinburgh EH6 6NF. It is also a Scottish registered charity (Scottish Charity No.SC002061).

The John Muir Trust (JMT) is a UK conservation charity dedicated to protecting wild places.

Founded in 1983, the Trust takes its inspiration from John Muir (1838-1914), the Scots-born founder of the modern conservation movement. Like Muir, the Trust believes in protecting wild land for its own sake – and because we believe wild places are essential for people and wildlife.

The Trust owns and looks after around 24,500 hectares (60,500 acres) of some of the finest wild areas in the UK including Ben Nevis, Schiehallion, Sandwood Bay, part of the Cuillin on Skye, Quinag in Assynt and Li and Coire Dhorrcail on the remote Knoydart peninsula.

The Trust has over 10,000 members many of whom volunteer on our conservation activities programme. Others are active in campaigning against threats to wild land. They are a key part of the work of the Trust and run local groups across the UK to spread the message of the Trust.

The John Muir Trust's policies are based on charitable objectives to protect nature and landscapes, and therefore consider that this protection has relevance to the broad IUCN definition of nature, encompassing landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity.

### **The John Muir Trust's Vision is that:**

Wild land is protected and enhanced throughout the UK and wild places are valued by all sectors of society. This Vision will be achieved when:

- Wild land is protected
- Wild land is enhanced
- People engage with wild places
- Communities thrive alongside wild land

### **Wild land**

The Trusts definition of wild land is:

“Wild land is restricted to large areas of high scenic and wildlife value, with minimal evidence of modern human development.”

The Trust commissioned The Wild Land Research Institute at the University of Leeds to produce a wild land map for the UK in 2010 see <http://www.jmt.org/assets/wild%20land%20policy.pdf> for further details.

### **Acquisitions Policy:**

The John Muir Trust is committed to practical action to conserve Britain's remaining wild places, for their own sake, for the wildlife that depends on them, for the benefit of local communities, and for the quiet enjoyment of present and future generations.

The Trust's distinctive role in the conservation of wild land is to safeguard whole landscapes within it, areas sufficiently large – whole hill ranges or watersheds – that they retain or can be restored to their natural processes and biodiversity, and can provide the spiritual qualities for which humans value wild land: freedom, tranquillity and solitude.

- The John Muir Trust acquires land in order to protect it from potential threats, demonstrate wild land management and work with local people and visitors to achieve protection, conservation and enhancement.
- The Trust will seek to support others with an interest in the effective protection and conservation management of wild land, whether they are communities, public or private landowners, or other conservation organisations.
- The Trust aims to cooperate with other owners of wild land, to influence others by demonstrating best practice in the care of wild land, and to collaborate in conservation projects with other organisations.

## **Disposal**

The principal aim of the Trust is to safeguard wild land for its long-term conservation. Land will therefore usually only be disposed of when there is a legal requirement to do so. For instance, in the case of compulsory purchase and croft sales. In addition there may be occasions where peripheral areas of land of limited conservation interest might be better managed by others. For example by local communities or other conservation bodies.

See also <http://www.jmt.org/assets/acquisitionprinciples.pdf>

## **Management:**

The Trust owns wild land to protect it from inappropriate development, and to improve habitats and encourage a more natural landscape and ecosystem. A prime aim of management is to retain, and where possible restore, natural processes and indigenous populations of plants and animals. The Trust will therefore promote sustainable management practices, and the repair where necessary of physical damage that has resulted in declines in biodiversity and deterioration of soils and landscape.

See also <http://www.jmt.org/policy-land-management.asp>

For each of its properties, the Trust will build up a body of knowledge, through appropriate research, surveys and monitoring; and on this basis will develop a management plan covering all relevant ecological, historic, social and recreational aspects. Management plans will be drawn up, and regularly reviewed, in accordance with the Trust's Wild Land Management Standards:

<http://www.wildlandmanagement.org.uk/>.

Five of the Trusts estates include land that is under crofting tenure, and therefore managed by local crofters, for this reason crofted areas outwith designated sites are not included in the protected areas submitted by the Trust.

The submission includes three types of land owned by the Trust:

1. Areas owned and managed by the Trust with no statutory wildlife designations.
2. Areas owned and managed by the Trust with statutory designations (SSSI, SPA, SAC,)
3. Areas owned by Trust and that are crofted and managed by grazing committees and have statutory designations (SSSI, SPA, SAC,)

**Key documents:**

Companies Act 1948 Memorandum of Association of The John Muir Trust (as adopted at the 1997 AGM) Registered No, 81620 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1983: <http://www.jmt.org/memorandum-articles-of-association.asp>

Land acquisition principles adopted by Trustees March 15<sup>th</sup> 2011:

<http://www.jmt.org/assets/acquisitionprinciples.pdf>

Land management policy adopted by Trustees July 1996: <http://www.jmt.org/policy-land-management.asp>

Improving habitats encouraging wildlife, Land report 2011-12:

[http://www.jmt.org/assets/jmt\\_lar\\_lo\\_res.pdf](http://www.jmt.org/assets/jmt_lar_lo_res.pdf)

Wildland Management Standards <http://www.wildlandmanagement.org.uk/>

There are no JMT Marine wildlife reserves.

**IUCN Management categories:**

Category IV

## DATA COLLECTION PROFORMA Protected Area Status and Management Category

### A. Does the site meet the IUCN definition of a protected area? Yes

#### 1. Is the site a clearly defined geographical area?

Provide an explanation as to how the it is defined, e.g. fencing, distinct features, demarcated on a map etc.

Yes, the John Muir Trust Properties have digitally mapped boundaries. Seven of the properties 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.

#### 2. Is it 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.

Provide an explanation and evidence

Yes the Memorandum of Association states "The Trust's object is **to conserve and protect wild places with their indigenous animals, plants and soils for the benefit of present and future generations.**" and in particular 3.1.2 to protect existing wild places so as to conserve their natural processes, and their indigenous animals, plants and soils. Further, for properties that have SSSI designation 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.

#### 3. 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. Provide an explanation and evidence

Yes We manage our properties according to our wild land management standards, which focus on habitat improvement and encouraging a more natural landscape and ecosystem. Our Land Management Policy states that "A prime aim of management is to retain, and where possible restore, natural processes and indigenous populations of plants and animals. The Trust will therefore promote sustainable management practices, and the repair where necessary of physical damage that has resulted in declines in biodiversity and deterioration of soils and landscape." For JMT properties that are also SSSIs, the priority objective of SSSI designation and management is nature conservation.

#### 4. 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?

Provide an explanation and evidence

"The Trust owns wild land to protect it from inappropriate development, to repair the damage that humans have done to wild land and to prevent future harm". In addition eight of the nine properties have statutory designations, this includes 2 SPAs, 6 SACs, 5NSAs and 9 SSSIs. 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, this includes lists of Potentially Damaging operations ....

#### 5. Does the designation of the site aim to maintain, or ideally, increase the degree of naturalness of the ecosystem being protected?

Provide an explanation and evidence

Helping nature flourish on Trust land is a long-term process. Wherever possible, it means letting nature take its own course and heal itself. By restoring and enhancing key habitats – especially native woodland and peatland – the Trust encourages the return of native species. We manage our properties according to our [wild land management standards](#), which focus on habitat improvement and encouraging a more natural landscape and ecosystem.

#### 6. 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. Provide an explanation and evidence

Yes, the Trusts long term vision is that "Wild land is protected and enhanced throughout the UK and wild places are valued by all sectors of society". All properties have management plans that are revised every five years. For those JMT properties 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.