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*Categorisation of Protected Areas Managed by Department of Conservation*

**National Parks Act 1980**

Purpose	<p>Areas of land or land and water possessing indigenous plant or animal life, ecological, geological, archaeological or historical features of special significance. (General Policy for National Parks. NPRA 1983)</p>
Objectives of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve the specially protected features intact with the minimum of human interference</li> <li>• Permit entry only for activities compatible with the purpose for which the area was set aside.</li> </ul> <p>(General Policy for National Parks. NPRA, 1983)</p>
Guidance for Selection	<p>As for nature reserve in the case of natural values.</p> <p>For archaeological or historical features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• area has spiritual, cultural or scientific values of such significance or vulnerability that the basic public freedom of entry and access to parks cannot be appropriately managed under the normal conditions and restrictions.</li> </ul>
Organisational Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owned by the Crown</li> <li>• Under control and management of DOC</li> </ul>

**Ecological Area<sup>14</sup>**

Purpose	As for scientific reserve, and in particular to protect representative areas of ecological importance.
Objectives of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protect natural processes</li> <li>• Protect genetic pools for indigenous plants and animals</li> <li>• Maintain natural benchmarks for assessing changes associated with various forms of development within a region</li> <li>• When appropriate manipulate the area (or part of it) if necessary to maintain or restores ecological integrity</li> <li>• Increase public awareness and appreciation of natural ecosystems and species</li> <li>• Allow recreational uses appropriate to the setting.</li> </ul>
Guidance for Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As for scientific reserve</li> </ul>
Organisational Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• owned by Crown</li> <li>• Under control and management of DOC</li> </ul>

**Stewardship Area**

Purpose	Area of land (or land and water) containing natural and/or historic resources. It may be subject to active intervention for management purposes so as to ensure the protection of historic or other features or habitats and/or to meet the requirements of specific species.
Objectives of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect natural and historic resources</li> </ul>
Guidance for Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area may be natural or have modified ecosystems</li> <li>• Size of the area should depend on the protection requirements of the natural and/or historic resources and may range from relatively small to very extensive</li> <li>• Area may play an important role in the protection of nature and well-being of species.</li> </ul>
Organisational Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owned by Crown</li> <li>• Controlled and managed by DOC</li> </ul>



**14** A category of "Specially Protected Area" under part IV of the Act



### Marine Reserve

Purpose (s.3)	Area of seabed (or seabed and foreshore) and the water above it possessing distinctive, typical, beautiful or unique marine life of national interest.
Objectives of Management (s.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage for the scientific study of marine life</li> <li>• Preserve the natural state as far as possible</li> <li>• Preserve and protect the marine life as far as possible</li> <li>• Allow the public freedom of access and entry subject to conditions and restrictions necessary for the preservation of marine life or the welfare in general of marine reserves so that the public may enjoy in full measure the opportunity to study, observe and record marine life in its natural habitat</li> <li>• Maintain any right of access to or upon the foreshore or any right of navigation as far as possible (s.23).</li> </ul>
Guidance for Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area to be suitable for scientific study of marine life and benefit of the public (s.5(9))</li> </ul>
Organisational Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land of the Crown<sup>15</sup></li> <li>• Controlled and managed by DOC</li> </ul>

### Marine Mammal Sanctuary

Purpose <sup>16</sup>	Area of land (or land and water, including foreshore, seabed, or waters of the sea) suitable to protect marine mammals against threat from human activities.
Objectives of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined and declared for each sanctuary when established (s.22)</li> </ul>
Guidance for Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where there is an established threat to marine mammals, particularly breeding areas for threatened or endangered species</li> <li>• Where the proposed sanctuary area is readily defined and is a vital habitat for the species</li> <li>• Where management objectives can be achieved through development and enforcement of regulations to address and mitigate the threat</li> </ul>
Organisational Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owned or vested in or land of the Crown</li> <li>• Controlled and managed by DOC</li> </ul>



**15** Refer to s.9A Foreshore and Seabed Endowment Act 1991

**16** Any area held under the National Parks Act 1980 or the Reserves Act 1977 or the Marine Reserves Act 1971 is excluded from being classified in this category.



**Amenities/Amenity Area**

Purpose	<p>National Park<sup>17</sup> Small areas of land suitable for major development and operation of recreation and related amenities and services appropriate for public use and enjoyment of the park.</p> <p>Conservation SPA A suitable area which contributes to and facilitates people’s appreciation of its indigenous natural resources and its historic resources (s.23A)</p>
Objectives of Management	<p>National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply principles applicable to national parks only so far as they are compatible with the development and operation of the amenities and services</li> <li>• Require a high quality of planning an design to ensure that any development and its future maintenance, does not have a deleterious effect on adjacent parts of the park</li> <li>• Discourage development of facilities and services which are or can be provided for outside of the park.</li> </ul> <p>Conservation SPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect indigenous natural, and historic resource</li> <li>• Foster the recreational attributes of the area(s.32A)</li> </ul>
Guidance for Selection	<p>National Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites where the scale, impact or concentration of development will involve substantial and permanent modification of the park.</li> </ul> <p>Conservation SPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High use or potential high use areas buffering natural or historic resources where only more limited public use is desirable.</li> </ul>
Organisational Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owned by the Crown</li> <li>• Controlled and managed by DOC</li> <li>• Area may be leased in whole or part as a concession</li> </ul>



**17** Based on the General Policy for National parks NPRA 1983



### National Park

Purpose (s.4)	An area of land (or land and water) containing scenery of such distinctive quality, ecological systems, or natural features so beautiful, unique, or scientifically important that they are of national interest.
Objectives of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve the scenery, ecological systems or natural features for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public</li> <li>• Preserve the natural state as far as possible</li> <li>• Preserve the native plants and animals as far as possible</li> <li>• Exterminate introduced plants and animals as far as possible</li> <li>• Preserve sites and objects of archaeological and historical interest as far as possible</li> <li>• Maintain value as soil, water and forest conservation area</li> <li>• Allow the public freedom of entry and access subject to conditions and restrictions necessary for the preservation of the native plants and animals so for the welfare in general of the part so that the public may receive in full measure the inspiration, enjoyment, recreation and other benefits that may be derived.</li> </ul>
Guidance for Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area should be relatively large, preferably in terms of tens of thousands of hectares, and preferably comprising blocks</li> <li>• In general, area under consideration should be a natural area with nationally significant scenery, ecological systems or natural features</li> <li>• Predominantly natural areas will be considered if they:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contain modified areas which can be restored or are capable of regeneration, or</li> <li>- Contain features of significant historical, cultural, archaeological or scientific values, or</li> <li>- Contain features which have no equivalent in an unmodified area in a national part and which are so beautiful, unique or so scientifically important that they should be protected in a national park</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In fixing the boundaries of new parks or additions to existing parks the following criteria will apply:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ecosystems within the park should be able to withstand pressures from possible environmental change on lands adjacent to the park</li> <li>- Adjacent land uses should not detrimentally affect or dominate park values</li> <li>- Boundaries should encompass complete landscape units</li> <li>- Boundaries should allow the maximum possible right of access by the public consistent with the need to preserve park values</li> <li>- Boundaries should be convenient for efficient management of the park and also for the occupier of adjacent land</li> <li>- Boundaries should where possible follow physical features such as ridge lines and streams as they are natural and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	easily identifiable on the ground. Natural physical boundaries are normally preferable to vegetation boundaries, man-made features or straight line boundaries. (General Policy for National Parks. NPRA 1983)
Organisational Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Owned by the Crown</li> <li>Controlled and managed by DOC</li> </ul>

**Conservation Park**

Purpose	An area of land (or land and water) containing predominantly natural systems, managed to ensure long term protection and maintenance of biological diversity, while providing recreational and visitor opportunities.
Objectives of Management (s.19)	<p>Primary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect its natural and historic resources</li> </ul> <p>Secondary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate public recreation and enjoyment</li> </ul>
Guidance for Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area should possess a landscape of high scenic quality, with diverse associated habitats and flora and fauna</li> <li>Area should provide opportunities for public enjoyment through outdoor recreation and tourism</li> <li>Area should be at least two thirds in a natural condition although it may contain limited commercial or non-commercial plantations</li> <li>Area should be large enough to absorb sustainable and appropriate uses without detriment to its overall long-term natural values.</li> </ul>
Organisational Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Owned by Crown</li> <li>Controlled and managed by DOC</li> </ul>