



The IUCN Green List Standard – delivering on Target 3

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The GBF Target 3 Reality Check: Shifting from Quantity to Quality

THE STRATEGIC INSIGHT

CBD Decision XIII/2 formally recognizes the IUCN Green List as the premier voluntary standard to promote management effectiveness and serve as a management effectiveness and serve as a indicator for Target 3.



Quantity / Coverage

Reporting on Hectares.
Focus on Area.

The Gap: The Verification Deficit

Most governments lack standardized, independent metrics to prove effective management. 30x30 cannot afford "paper parks."



Quality / Effectiveness

Reporting on Impact.
Focus on Equitable Governance & Outcomes.

The Architecture of Effectiveness





The Improvement Pathway

Function: On-the-Ground Capacity Building.

Fosters continuous site-level improvements through self-assessment tools, training, and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing across global MPA networks.



The Assured/Certification Pathway

Function: Independent Validation & Recognition.

The flagship process. Expert Assessment Groups (EAGs) provide rigorous, independent verification, building absolute confidence in conservation achievements.



The Reporting Dimension (Target 3)

Function: Global Data Aggregation & MRV.

The critical data layer. Links localized site assessments with national and global databases, enabling governments to reliably track and report on GBF Target 3 delivery.

Support available for HAC members

- Application of the Green List at site and system level - sites can use the benchmarking to assess their status or opt for a full listing process that includes verification and assurance, by joining 112 Listing in achieving “Green List status”. (requires funding)
- This dual approach allows countries to use the IUCN Green List as both benchmarking, improvement tools and a formal certification mechanism.
- IUCN will provide **(2) free webinars per year** explaining the benchmarking process, including a demo of the self-assessment tool, and conduct **(2) open sessions** where site managers who have conducted an initial benchmarking can meet with IUCN staff to ask questions and troubleshoot any issues.

THE IUCN GREEN LIST: SCALING GLOBAL CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE

Showcasing expanding reach, expert-driven governance, and rigorous standard

GLOBAL FOOTPRINT & REACH

112
Listings
across **23**
Countries

Encompassing 240 protected sites with 115 additional candidates currently in the pipeline.

60
Countries
Actively
Engaged

Nations are involved through site listings, national roll-outs, or strategic implementing partnerships.

2025
MOMENTUM



44
New Site
Applications

Growth continues with 29 listings covering 159 sites projected for the coming year.



EAGL Level Breakdown

EAGL Level	Count	EAGL Level	Count	EAGL Level	Count
National	36	Regional	9	Sub-national	2

EXPERT NETWORK & GOVERNANCE

500+
Experts across
47 EAGLs

Expert Assessment Groups operate at national, regional, and sub-national levels to ensure standards.

1,000+
Stakeholders &
Rights Holders

Broad engagement through consultations ensures inclusive site processes and local representation.

1 in 7
Sites are World
Heritage Status

Demonstrates the high conservation value and international significance of Green Listed areas.