



# The “designated boundaries” concept used in CDDA and the Registry of designation types

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## Document History

Version	Date	Comment
1	21-12-2016	First version of the document: “CDDA Designation boundaries concept”
2	07-03-2019	The document is rewritten to reflect the new CDDA reporting format and the availability of the Registry of designation types.

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# 1 Background

The Nationally designated areas (CDDA) dataset is a European inventory holding information about designated protected areas and their designation types, which directly or indirectly create protected areas in Eionet partner countries and territories. It is an agreed annual Eionet core data flow maintained by the EEA with support from the ETC/BD. The dataset is used by the EEA and e.g. the UNEP-WCMC for their main assessments, products and services. The CDDA is the official source of protected area information from European countries to the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA) hosted by the UNEP-WCMC.

The Registry of designation types holds information about the national and international designation types and the legal measures or other effective means used by countries to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. A designation type may have a statutory or voluntary status, provide information about the purpose of the protected areas, their conservation objectives and the related restrictions of use or management measures. The Registry of designation types is used for validation when reporting to the CDDA, the Natura 2000 and the Emerald data flows.

The concept of “designated boundaries” is used in the CDDA reporting as well as in the Registry of designation types in order to capture areas that are under protection but not necessarily underpinned by a statutory instrument with a date attached. For the purpose of reporting such areas, the concept of “designated boundaries” allows to merge sites. We strongly encourage to provide the full information at the site level, but for practical purposes it may not be possible to collect the designation year information required. We would expect designation boundaries concept to be used only in exceptional cases for protected areas following the IUCN definition, while for OECMs (see later in the document) it may become more common.

All areas are relevant to capture in the area-based statistics as they contribute positively to indicators addressing the area protected or conserved for the benefit of biodiversity. The information is used to inform the progress of e.g. the global Aichi Target 11 on protected areas and the Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 on protecting life below water or on land.

The purpose of this paper is to improve the understanding of the “designated boundaries” concept for reporting.



## 2 Examples of “designated boundaries”

Nature conservation takes many forms and is implemented in a variety of ways by the countries. Below we list a few examples that may not fit well the traditional “site” level reporting and where the concept of “designated boundaries” may be considered.

- Areas where certain habitat types occur. Some countries have a general protection of certain habitat types wherever they occur, e.g. certain grasslands, meadow types, raised bogs, heathlands, etc. Even when the land is not yet officially registered for the occurrence of the habitat type, the land is under the general protection.
- Areas inhabited by certain species. A general protection of certain species based on their known distribution. If new occurrences are found, the land is under the general protection.
- Areas owned and/or managed with the purpose of improving the natural conditions for habitat types and species (e.g. owned by certain NGOs or funds targeted at nature conservation objectives).
- The Dutch designation type NL21: “Nature Reserves owned by professional nature management organizations” was reporting “designated boundaries”.
- Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs): we foresee that for the reporting of many OECMs the “designated boundaries” concept may be supportive. See section 4 for the global process.

## 3 How to deliver “designated boundaries” to the CDDA and the Registry of designation types

For **CDDA reporting**, the information is given in the [DesignatedArea table](#) via the field [designatedAreaType](#). The valid values for the field is either `designatedSite` or `designatedBoundary`.

- `designatedSite`: A site (polygon or multipolygon) designated by national legislation or other effective means with the intent to protect fauna, flora and habitats or which provides adequate and durable protection for fauna, flora and habitats.
  - One CDDA ID is allocated to each `designatedSite`.
- `designatedBoundary`: A boundary of many sites (multipolygon), often spread over a larger geographical area, which provides adequate and durable protection for fauna, flora and habitats through national legislation or other effective means. In exceptional cases, the sites may be designated with the intent to protect fauna, flora and habitats.
  - One CDDA ID is allocated to each `designatedBoundary`.

As a designated boundary is a composite site it may be difficult to determine the year when a certain area became part of e.g. the range of a certain species or habitat type and thereby became part of the composite site. For that reason, `legalFoundationDate` in the CDDA reporting is only mandatory for designated sites (`designatedSite`). Where date information is available and meaningful for a designated boundary, it should be provided.



For the **Registry of designation types**, the information is given in the [DesignationType table](#) via the field [creatingSites](#). The field is Boolean that indicates whether the designation type creates designated sites or designated boundaries.

- creatingSites = true: the designation type creates designated sites
- creatingSites = false: the designation type creates designated boundaries

## 4 A corresponding initiative at the global level

The Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 for the CBD strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 reads:

“By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.”

With the addition of the concept of “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs), the CBD strategic plan is looking for sites that deliver effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity regardless of their objectives. This is in contrast to protected areas that fulfil the [IUCN definition of protected areas](#). The IUCN definition is as follows:

*“A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values”*

At the 2018 UN Biodiversity Meeting held by the CBD (COP 14) the decision on [Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures](#) was adopted. The definition is:

“Other effective area-based conservation measure” means “a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values”

As requested by the CBD, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas has set up a [Task force to provide guidance on OECMs](#). Draft [guidelines for recognizing and reporting OECMs](#) are available. UNEP-WCMC is working closely with the task force.



## References

- Reference page for CDDA reporting
  - <http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/cdda/>
- Reference page for Designation types reporting
  - [http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/designation\\_types/](http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/designation_types/)
- Aichi Target 11:
  - <https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>
- SDGs 14 and 15:
  - <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030.html>
- Decision on “Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures” from CBD COP 14, Egypt 2019
  - <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-08-en.pdf>
- IUCN task force on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)
  - <https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa/what-we-do/other-effective-area-based-conservation-measures-oecms>
- Draft Guidelines for recognising and reporting OECMs
  - [https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/guidelines\\_for\\_recognising\\_and\\_reporting\\_oecms\\_-\\_january\\_2018.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/guidelines_for_recognising_and_reporting_oecms_-_january_2018.pdf)