

for use by the Green List and Standard Committees, EAGLs, PA Managers and others, and for proposals for future revisions, as required.

Administrative and non-substantive changes to the IUCN Green List Standard and/or its Generic Indicators may be made at any time at the discretion of the Standard Committee with oversight from the Management Committee. These do not require a formal revision process though any changes that are made shall be noted to stakeholders in the subsequent revision process and published in a list of changes by IUCN. Administrative and non-substantive changes do not affect the regular review and revision cycle but shall require a new version number of the Green List Standard or its Indicators, as applicable, to be issued and published by IUCN (e.g. Version 1.1; 1.2; 1.3 etc.).

Within a maximum of five years from the approval date of any new version of the IUCN Green List Standard, the Management Committee shall formally consult with the Green List Committee and the EAGLs to determine whether the IUCN Green List Standard and/or its Generic Indicators need to be revised. This consultation will usually occur ahead of the IUCN quadrennial programme review, prior to each World Conservation Congress. If it is determined that a revision is desirable, the rules and procedures specified above shall be followed, as applicable to the revision of the IUCN Green List Standard and its Indicators respectively.

2 Adapting the Generic Indicators

The IUCN Green List is a benchmark for defining success in PAs. It does so through globally consistent criteria that set the benchmark for exemplary PA governance, design, planning and management, which are the preconditions for strong conservation outcomes.

A set of Generic Indicators are the basis for judging whether a PA complies with the IUCN Green List Standard. However, some of the Generic Indicators for PAs may need to be adapted at jurisdictional level to reflect the diverse thematic, legal, cultural, social and bio-geographical conditions of PAs in different parts of the world and thus facilitate implementation of the IUCN Green List Standard.

This chapter describes the procedure for adapting Generic Indicators to jurisdictional contexts. The provisions of the procedure ensure consistency and transparency in Indicator adaptations of EAGLs. It will thereby lead to replicable results and enhance the credibility of the whole Green List Programme.

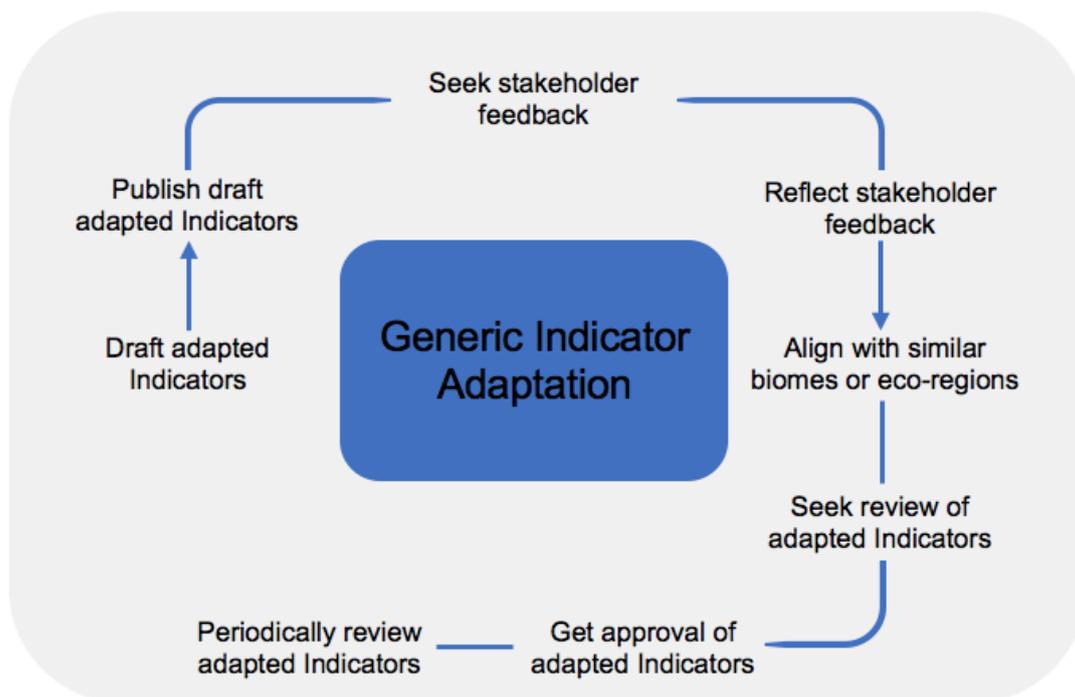


Figure 5: Adapting the Generic Indicators

2.1 Framework for the Adapted Indicators

Generic Indicators shall only be adapted where the context of the respective jurisdiction make this necessary. The respective EAGL shall determine which Indicators need adaptation.

The **Adapted Indicators must specify the jurisdiction (e.g. country, region)** to which they may be applied and shall include a version number.

At the time of their submission, the **Adapted Indicators must comply with the latest versions of all effective IUCN policies, standards, directives, guidelines and advice notes that are relevant** for the interpretation of the Criteria of the IUCN Green List Standard. In particular, IUCN’s Environmental and Social Management System (see here: <https://www.iucn.org/resources/project-management-tools/environmental-and-social-management-system>) and relevant IUCN resolutions (search by criteria here: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/resrec/search>). EAGLs may seek guidance from the Operations Team or IUCN Secretariat staff in identifying which ones they are.

Note that a PA may not need to meet all Indicators. An applicant PA only has to meet those Indicators that apply to the particular IUCN PA category and governance type, as advised by the EAGL.

2.2 Indicators

There must be an Indicator(s) for every criterion of the IUCN Green List Standard. Where a criterion includes several requirements, associated Indicators shall be developed for each requirement. Criteria and requirements of the IUCN Green List Standard cannot be waived due to existing relevant legislation in the respective jurisdiction.

- The Indicators shall apply to all PAs of the respective jurisdiction.
- Each Indicator must specify outcomes or levels of performance that can be measured (qualitatively or quantitatively) or assessed during an evaluation.
- Indicators shall only include elements that contribute to achieving the objective of the respective IUCN Green List Standard criterion.
- Indicators shall not favour a particular technology or patented item.
- Where possible, Indicators should be free from subjective elements such as “best available”.
- Where Indicators include qualitative terms, guidance should be provided on how EAGLs should apply their expertise when judging whether an Indicator has been met by a PA.
- Indicators should be measureable or assessable at a reasonable cost.
- The Indicators shall be written using a clear and consistent vocabulary.
- The meaning of the Indicators and the levels of performance required to meet the Indicators should be clear to the reader.
- Every Indicator should include at least one example for potential means of verification.

2.3 The adaptation process

The EAGL shall **draft the Adapted Indicators and any exemplary means of verification in an official language of the country/region or in a language that is more commonly spoken** in the environment of the PAs to be evaluated.

The EAGL shall **publish its draft Adapted Indicators and potential means of verification** with the help of the Operations Team and **seek stakeholder input**, which shall be submitted to the EAGL and to its Reviewer.

The EAGL shall use consultation methods that are appropriate to the consulted stakeholder group(s).

The EAGL shall reach out to at least the following stakeholders (or their equivalent) in the respective jurisdiction:

- PA Agencies and authorities

- National NGOs that are involved or have an interest in environmental or social aspects of PA management, either at the national level, or at the regional level
- Representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities that are involved or have an interest in PA management either at the national level, or at the regional level
- Representatives of PAs and PA workers
- Representatives of the tourism industry (if relevant for the respective PA)
- Representatives of research and education institutions.

The EAGL shall **allow stakeholders 30 days for the submission** of comments on the draft of the Adapted Indicators and Means of Verification to the EAGL and to the Reviewer.

Where the EAGL cannot develop a consensus with stakeholders regarding adaptation of the Generic Indicators, the EAGL shall **accommodate stakeholder concerns** by:

- comparing Adapted Indicators and means of verification that have been set by other EAGLs to see how similar issues have been addressed
- seeking written guidance from the Standard Committee on the issues to find an adequate solution.

The EAGL shall prepare a short report describing the main issues where stakeholders have sustained disagreement with the Adapted Indicators or where significant differences of opinion about appropriate Indicators were expressed by stakeholders, and explaining the basis on which the EAGL made its decisions in relation to these Indicators. The report on stakeholder submissions shall be posted as an attachment to the Adapted Indicators.

NOTE: The stakeholder consultation is designed to ensure conformity with the requirements of the *ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards*. In consulting with stakeholders, the EAGL should follow the guidance provided in this document's Annex.

The EAGL should be able to demonstrate that the requirements of its Adapted Indicators are broadly **in line with similar biomes or eco-regions**. To this end, the EAGL may consult COMPASS to check other EAGL adaptations or may contact the Green List Operations Team on the status of Adapted Indicators of other EAGLs.

When the adaptation process has been concluded, all the indicators that have been adapted shall be translated into English. **The EAGL shall ensure the accuracy of the translation, with Reviewer oversight that the translation is sufficient.**

The **EAGL shall post the following records on COMPASS:**

- The complete set of Adapted Indicators (in the EAGL's working language and in the official English translation) and the means of verification
- Names of stakeholders invited to comment on the Adapted Indicators
- All stakeholder comments on Indicator adaptations
- Other sources of information taken into account when adapting the generic Indicators
- Summary of EAGL discussions on Adapted Indicators to make suggested changes clear.

As a **reference to legal compliance**, the EAGL should identify and post as attachments on COMPASS:

- A list of key national and local PA law and administrative requirements which apply in the jurisdiction in which the Adapted Indicators are to be used
- A list of multilateral environmental agreements that the jurisdiction has ratified, relevant to the Adapted Indicators.

NOTE: See the available guidance [How to upload information on Adapted Indicators to COMPASS](#).

Posting the listed records on COMPASS will trigger the **Reviewer and the Standard Committee to examine the Adapted Indicators and potential means of verification within 30 days**. The Reviewer shall verify that the process for adapting the Generic Indicators was conducted in line with the provisions of this User Manual. The Standard Committee shall verify that the adaptation does not compromise the quality benchmark of the IUCN Green List Standard. The Standard Committee shall also examine whether the suggested means of verification are suitable for providing evidence that a required performance level is met.

The Reviewer and Standard Committee shall post their findings in this respect on COMPASS. Depending on the Reviewer's and the Standard Committee's feedback, the EAGL may need to make changes to draft Adapted Indicators. Where the EAGL does not follow the Reviewer's and Standard Committee's recommendations, it shall justify this in writing.

Once the Reviewer and Standard Committee are satisfied that the Adapted Indicators are adequate, they shall use COMPASS to **submit the Adapted Indicators to the Green List Committee**. The Green List Committee shall respond within 7 days with any requests for changes. If there is no feedback from the Green List Committee within that timeframe, the Adapted Indicators shall be considered approved.

NOTE: See the available guidance [How to verify the Indicator adaptation process on COMPASS](#).

If further revisions are requested for approval of the Adapted Indicators, any ongoing PA assessments and evidence provided by the PAs will have to be reviewed by the PA and the EAGL to ensure they meet the approved Adapted Indicators.

The EAGL and the Operations Team will be notified via COMPASS when the Adapted Indicators have been approved by the Green List Committee. The Operations Team shall then **publish the approved Adapted Indicators** in their original language and in English.

The EAGL **shall periodically review its Adapted Indicators**, including means of verification, to:

- Bring them into conformity with any new or revised Generic Indicators as referenced on COMPASS
- Identify any aspects that may be in conflict with legal requirements in the jurisdiction in which the Adapted Indicators are to be used. Aspects of the Adapted Indicators that specify performance thresholds lower than the minimum legal requirements in the concerned jurisdiction shall be modified to ensure that they meet or exceed the minimum legal requirements. If other conflicts are identified, the EAGL shall evaluate them for the purpose of Green Listing and engage in stakeholder discussions to solve them (NOTE: Conflicts only occur where a legal obligation prevents the implementation of some aspect of the Adapted Indicators. It is not considered a conflict if the requirements of the Adapted Indicators exceed the minimum requirements for legal compliance)
- Reflect multilateral environmental agreements as they relate to the IUCN Green List Standard
- Ensure that the Adapted Indicators are applicable and practical in the jurisdiction concerned
- Take account of national environmental, social and economic perspectives
- Address issues that are of concern to any stakeholder group in the respective jurisdiction in the context of the Adapted Indicators.

Changes to approved Adapted Indicators have to be reviewed and approved by the Green List Committee.