CONCEPT

# Protected Area Management: National Parks, Nature Reserves and Ranger Operations

21 – 25 December 2026
London - Central London four-star



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**Ref:** 494_16679 **Date:** 21 – 25 December 2026 **Location:** London - Central London four-star **Fees:** 23000 SAR

## Introduction:

Protected area management often fails on the ground: reserves are declared on paper, yet poaching, grazing, invasive plants, wildfire and unmanaged visitors keep degrading habitats because no zoning, monitoring or ranger system is in place. This Core Concept course gives national park and nature reserve teams the practical methods to classify a site, plan and zone it, set a biodiversity baseline, run patrols, handle wildlife conflict and visitor pressure, prevent fire, fund operations and evaluate results. Participants build a Protected Area Management Plan for a real or case site.

## Course Objectives:

- Classify a site against the IUCN protected area management categories and set conservation objectives, management zones and permitted uses
- Design a biodiversity baseline and monitoring programme using transect surveys, camera traps and ecological indicators
- Plan ranger patrols, enforcement procedures and patrol data reporting to reduce poaching, illegal grazing and encroachment
- Apply mitigation measures for human-wildlife conflict and set visitor carrying capacity and wildlife viewing rules for a park or reserve
- Prepare wildfire risk prevention and response arrangements alongside habitat restoration and invasive species control
- Build a Protected Area Management Plan with community benefit sharing, a financing mix and a management effectiveness evaluation

## Target Audience:

- Managers responsible for running national parks, nature reserves and wildlife sanctuaries
- Environmental authority units that designate, license and oversee protected areas
- Conservation NGO programme teams that co-manage sites or fund field projects
- Ranger and field operations supervisors accountable for patrols, enforcement and incident response
- Community liaison and livelihoods functions working with residents, herders and landholders around reserves
- Ecological monitoring and research coordinators who manage survey data for protected sites

## Course Outline:

### Day 1: Protected Area Foundations and Site Assessment

- IUCN Protected Area Management Categories Ia to VI and Their Management Objectives
- Governance Types: State, Shared, Community and Private Management of Reserves
- Threat Mapping: Poaching, Overgrazing, Encroachment, Invasive Species and Fire
- Stakeholder and Rights-Holder Mapping Around a Park Boundary
- Site Values Assessment and Current Condition Scorecard for a Reserve

### Day 2: Management Planning, Zoning and Biodiversity Monitoring

- Management Plan Structure: Vision, Conservation Targets, Objectives and Action Tables
- Zoning Scheme Design: Core, Buffer, Restoration and Visitor Use Zones
- Biodiversity Baseline Methods: Transects, Point Counts and Vegetation Plots
- Camera Trap Survey Design, Image Tagging and Occupancy Estimates
- Ecological Indicator Selection and Monitoring Calendar for Key Species and Habitats

### Day 3: Ranger Operations, Enforcement and Wildlife Conflict

- Ranger Patrol Planning: Sectors, Routes, Frequencies and Patrol Log Sheets
- Patrol Data Recording, Threat Maps and Monthly Law Enforcement Reports
- Enforcement Procedures: Evidence Handling, Snare Removal and Offender Encounters
- Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation: Livestock Protection, Crop Guarding and Compensation Options
- Ranger Safety, Search and Rescue Readiness and First Response Protocols

### Day 4: Visitors, Wildfire, Restoration and Financing

- Visitor Carrying Capacity and Limits of Acceptable Change for Trails and Viewing Sites
- Responsible Wildlife Viewing Codes, Guide Licensing and Interpretation Programmes
- Wildfire Risk Mapping, Firebreaks, Fuel Management and Response Drills
- Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Removal Work Plans
- Park Financing Mix: Entry Fees, Concessions, Partnerships and Conservation Grants

### Day 5: Case Work and the Protected Area Management Plan

- Community Engagement Case: Benefit Sharing Agreement with Reserve-Edge Residents
- Dryland Reserve Case: Grazing Pressure, Wildlife Recovery and Patrol Coverage
- Management Effectiveness Evaluation: Scoring Planning, Inputs, Processes and Outcomes
- Protected Area Management Plan Drafting with Zoning Map and Budget
- Management Plan Presentation and Peer Review Panel

## Skills You Will Gain:

- Protected Area Categorisation
- Zoning Design
- Biodiversity Survey Planning
- Camera Trap Data Analysis
- Patrol Planning and Reporting
- Wildlife Conflict Mitigation
- Wildfire Prevention Planning
- Conservation Finance Planning

## Why Attend This Course:

- Return with a Protected Area Management Plan, zoning map and budget built for a real or case reserve
- Replace ad hoc patrols and occasional surveys with a routine that shows where threats are rising or falling
- Show funders and authorities how the park will pay its way through fees, concessions and partnerships
- Compare field practice with peers from park agencies, authorities and conservation NGOs working in different ecosystems

## Conclusion:

A reserve is only as protected as the plan, patrols and people behind it. The week moves from IUCN categories, governance and threat mapping, through management plans, zoning and biodiversity monitoring, to ranger operations, enforcement and wildlife conflict, then visitor limits, wildfire prevention, restoration and park financing. The final day applies these methods to community and dryland reserve cases, evaluates management effectiveness and closes with each participant presenting a Protected Area Management Plan.