

## Description of Categories of Protected Areas in the Virgin Islands

Areas of land or sea identified for protection are categorized based on their particular characteristics and the management objectives for the area.

There are nine (9) categories of protected areas under the National Parks Trust Act, 2006. They are listed and described in the table below. Please refer to this table

TYPE OF PROTECTED AREAS	DESCRIPTION
Strict Nature Reserve	<p><b><u>Overview</u></b></p> <p>An area of land and/or sea of high natural quality in an unmodified or slightly modified state possessing outstanding or representative ecosystems, features or species and large enough to ensure preservation of the area's natural integrity for present and future generations, to be managed in this state in perpetuity.</p> <p><b><u>Conservation and Management Objectives</u></b></p> <p>The conservation and management objectives are to preserve habitats, ecosystems and wildlife species in as undisturbed state as possible while maintaining biodiversity and established ecological processes, and to secure examples of the natural environment primarily for scientific study and research, environmental monitoring, and science education.</p>
Wilderness Area	<p><b><u>Overview</u></b></p> <p>An area of land and/or sea of high natural quality in an unmodified or slightly modified state possessing outstanding or representative ecosystems, features or species and large enough to ensure preservation of the area's natural integrity for present and future generations, to be managed in this state in perpetuity.</p> <p><b><u>Conservation and Management Objectives</u></b></p> <p>The primary conservation and management objectives are to protect and preserve a natural wilderness condition, maintain biological diversity and essential ecological processes, and provide for carefully managed public access consistent with maintaining the wilderness qualities of the present and future generations.</p>
National Park	<p><b><u>Overview</u></b></p>

TYPE OF PROTECTED AREAS	DESCRIPTION
	<p>A natural area of land and/or sea contain a representative sample of major natural regions, features, or scenery, or where wildlife, habitats, or surface features are of special significance and are not materially altered by current human occupation or exploitation, to be maintained in perpetuity.</p> <p><b><u>Conservation and Management Objectives</u></b></p> <p>The primary conservation and management objectives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) To protect natural and scenic areas of national and international significance for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational, or tourism purposes.</li> <li>(b) To protected, in as natural a state as possible, representative samples of major physiographic regions, biotic communities, genetic resources, and species for ecological stability and diversity</li> <li>(c) To manage visitor use for inspirational, scientific, educational, recreational, or cultural purposes at a level which will maintain the area in a natural or near natural state;</li> <li>(d) To eliminate and thereafter prevent exploitation or occupation harmful to the purposes for which the area was declared; and</li> <li>(e) To take into account the needs of indigenous people, including subsistence resource use, in so far as that use does not adversely affect the conservation objectives of the area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Natural Monument</b></p>	<p><b><u>Overview</u></b></p> <p>A unique area of land and/or sea containing one or more natural, or natural and associated cultural, feature of outstanding value because of its inherent rarity, representative or aesthetic qualities.</p> <p><b><u>Conservation and Management Objectives</u></b></p> <p>The primary conservation and management objectives are to protect or preserve in perpetuity the special feature or features</p>

TYPE OF PROTECTED AREAS	DESCRIPTION
	<p>and to provide opportunities for scientific research, education and public appreciation to the extent consistent with its conservation objectives.</p>
<p><b>Habitat or Species Management Area</b></p>	<p><u><b>Overview</b></u></p> <p>An area of land and/or sea that serves an important role in the protection and survival of wildlife , where the protection of wildlife habitat is essential to the well-being of nationally or locally-important wild plants or to resident or migratory wild animals, and where specific human manipulation and active intervention are required to ensure maintenance of such habitats or to meet the habitat requirements of specific species of both, and such areas may incorporate breeding and nesting areas, wetlands, coral reefs, estuaries, grasslands, forests or spawning areas including marine feeding beds.</p>
<p><b>Protected Landscape or Seascape</b></p>	<p><u><b>Overview</b></u></p> <p>An area of land and/or sea where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced a distinctive character with significant aesthetic, ecological, or cultural heritage value an often with high biological diversity.</p> <p><u><b>Conservation and Management Objectives</b></u></p> <p>The primary conservation and management objectives are to maintain and support the harmonious interaction of people and nature by preserving and promoting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The diversity of the landscape, habitat and associated species;</li> <li>(b) Places of cultural heritage significance that are an integral part of the area's character;</li> <li>(c) Lifestyles and economic activities including fishing when in harmony with the character of the area; and</li> <li>(d) Opportunities for scientific research, education and public enjoyment compatible with the conservation objectives of the area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Managed Resource Area</b></p>	<p><u><b>Overview</b></u></p> <p>An area of land and/or sea large enough to absorb sustainable resource uses without detriment to its long-term natural values.</p>

TYPE OF PROTECTED AREAS	DESCRIPTION
	<p><b><u>Conservation and Management Objectives</u></b></p> <p>The primary conservation and management objectives are to ensure long-term protection and maintenance of biological diversity while providing a sustainable flow of natural products and services to meet community needs.</p>
Urban Park	<p><b><u>Overview</u></b></p> <p>A relatively small area that may be significantly altered from its natural state.</p> <p><b><u>Conservation and Management Objectives</u></b></p> <p>The primary conservation and management objectives are for educational, scientific or recreational purposes, including the preservation, display and propagation of wild plant collections in botanical gardens or wild animal collections in zoological parks.</p>
Historic Site	<p><b><u>Overview</u></b></p> <p>A site of national importance for its historic and cultural values and not otherwise associated with a natural site established under this Act.</p> <p><b><u>Conservation and Management Objectives</u></b></p> <p>The primary conservation and management objectives are primarily for conservation of the historic and cultural features of the site and any objects located therein, and where visitor use, educational activities, and scientific research and monitoring may be authorized so long as compatible with preservation of the site's historic and cultural values.</p>