



The CI symbolizes internationally designated and protected areas while encapsulating the institution's vision and values.

Using simple and modern typography, it emphasizes clear readability. The spherical symbol representing the world, placed centrally, signifies that GCIDA leads comprehensive environmental protection and research efforts on a global scale. This symbol visually conveys the theme of global cooperation and sustainable development, effectively communicating GCIDA's core mission.

In particular, the globe symbol atop the "i" represents the Earth, humanity, and their shared environment, reflecting the importance of environmental protection and multilateral cooperation. The encompassing curves further symbolize sustainability, illustrating forward-looking growth and progressive change. This CI delivers a clear message of global environmental protection while enhancing visual recognition through its concise and intuitive design.



Global Research and Training Centre for Internationally Designated Areas  
Under the auspices of UNESCO

Sagye-ri Beach / Jeju Special Self-Governing Province



Youngsil Giam Rocks of Mt. Halasan / Jeju Special Self-Governing Province



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## What is an Internationally Designated Area (IDA)?

Introduction to the Global Research and Training Centre for Internationally Designated Areas Under the auspices of UNESCO (GCIDA)

Introduction to GCIDA's Work Internationally Designated Area (IDA)



Global Research and Training Centre for Internationally Designated Areas Under the auspices of UNESCO

# What is an Internationally Designated Area (IDA)?

Internationally Designated Area (IDA) refers to the geographic area designated under international agreements or similar global programs. Examples of such areas include UNESCO-recognized World Natural Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks, and Ramsar Wetlands under the Ramsar Convention.



## World Natural Heritages

These areas are designated under the World Heritage Convention, an international agreement. They are natural sites of outstanding universal value that need to be protected for the benefit of all humanity.



## Biosphere Reserves

These areas are designated under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, with the aim of achieving sustainable development by obtaining economic benefits from the sustainable use of biodiversity, and using these benefits to conserve biodiversity.



## UNESCO Global Geoparks

These areas are designated to conserve and enhance the geologically significant value of a region in Earth's history. They are expected to collaborate with local communities to meet the residents' social and economic needs, protect the landscape they inhabit, and implement activities to preserve the cultural identity of the residents.



## Ramsar Wetlands

The wetlands are those where internationally important ecological features are conserved, maintained, and sustainably managed in accordance with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat.

## Multi-Internationally Designated Areas (MIDAs)

Areas with more than two internationally designated areas (IDAs), where all or part of the four IDAs overlap in various combinations.

# Internationally Designated Area (IDA)

271	World Natural Heritage Sites
759	Biosphere Reserves
213	Global Geoparks
2,522	Ramsar Wetlands



W Region (Niger)



Ichkeul (Tunisia)

# Introduction to the Global Research and Training Centre for Internationally Designated Areas Under the auspices of UNESCO (GCIDA)

## Background of Establishment

IDAs (Internationally Designated Areas) are increasingly vital in implementing global strategies and environmental agreements for conservation and sustainable development, such as the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

While there are UNESCO Category 2 Centers focused on specific regions within an IDA, there is no Category 2 Center or international training program that addresses the four IDAs and their interconnections.

The government of the Republic of Korea has recognized the growing role of IDAs in global change, particularly for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development.

The government has also acknowledged the need to improve management quality, conduct research, build capacity, and create a global hub for joint cooperation on key issues.

To strengthen the capacity of IDA managers worldwide and promote research on protected areas, the Korean government has proposed establishing the 'Global Research and Training Center for Internationally Designated Areas' in Jeju Special Self-Governing Province which manages the four IDAs. This proposal was approved at the 40th UNESCO General Assembly in November 2019.

## Expected Outcomes from Establishment of GCIDA

- ① Enhancing the capacity of managers and management system of sites
- ② Contribution of making IDAs to serve as the pivot role in implementing SDGs
- ③ Activating strategy development and initiatives for the quality improvement of IDA management
- ④ Contributing to the program supplementation of UNESCO Category 2 Centers and university curricula, and contributing to the creation of mutual synergy

Schaaf, T. and Clamote Rodrigues, D. (2016). Managing MIDAs. IUCN



Wadden Sea of Lower Saxony (Germany)



Cilento, Vallo di Diano and Alburni (Italy)



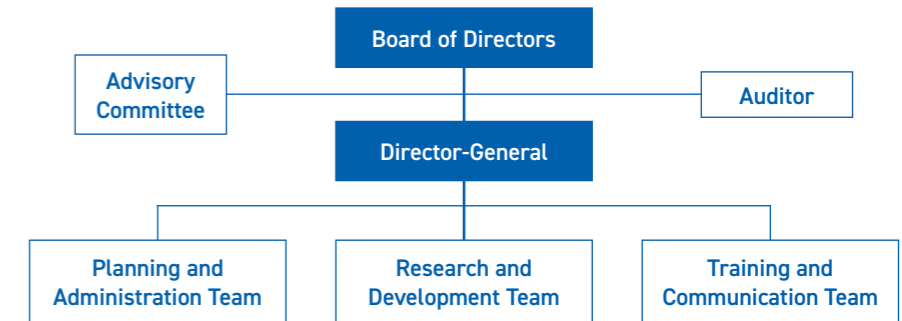
Azores (Portugal)



Talamanca mountain range (Costa Rica)

# Introduction to GCIDA's Work

## Organizational Structure



## The Process of GCIDA Foundation Being Established

- 09. 2012.** WCC Resolution Adoption (Establishing an Integrated Management System for Internationally Designated Areas)
- 06. 2016.** Proposal to establish GCIDA (Jeju Special Self-Governing Province → Ministry of Environment).
- 03. 2019.** Submission of proposal (Korean National Government → UNESCO).
- 11. 2019.** Approval of GCIDA establishment (40th UNESCO General Conference Assembly).
- 02. 2024.** Signing the agreement on GCIDA establishment (Korean National Government ↔ UNESCO).
- 04. 2024.** Establishment of the GCIDA Foundation.

## Vision & Key Missions

- Vision** Strengthening the global capacity for the sustainable development of Internationally Designated Areas.
- Strategic Direction** Establishing a platform for developing the sustainable development models of IDAs and for fostering experts.
- Key Missions**
  - Research & Development**
    - Policy research on Multi-Internationally Designated Areas (MIDAs).
    - Research on international trends of protected areas.
    - Research on the model development of IDAs for sustainable development and the establishment of institutional and financial base.
  - Training & Education**
    - Training and education for IDA managers.
    - Training and education for comprehensive stakeholders.
    - Development of academic degree programs and internationally recognized certification programs.
  - Networking**
    - Establishing partnerships with the institutional organizations related to internationally protected areas.
    - Establishing networks among trainees and stakeholders.
    - Disseminating knowledge and achievements related to IDAs.