APPLYING THE PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES IN EUROPE: CATEGORISATION & CERTIFICATION

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WHY USE THE CATEGORIES?

- ✓ Recognition as part of international standard
- ✓ Provide data for all to access
- ✓ Provide objective comprehensive approach

EXAMPLE 1 CATEGORISATION: UK

Why?

- ✓ WDPA entry totally inadequate
- ✓ No independent assessment
- ✓ Embarrassment that UK so far behind
- ✓ Not clear that all designated nature areas fulfilled IUCN protected area definition
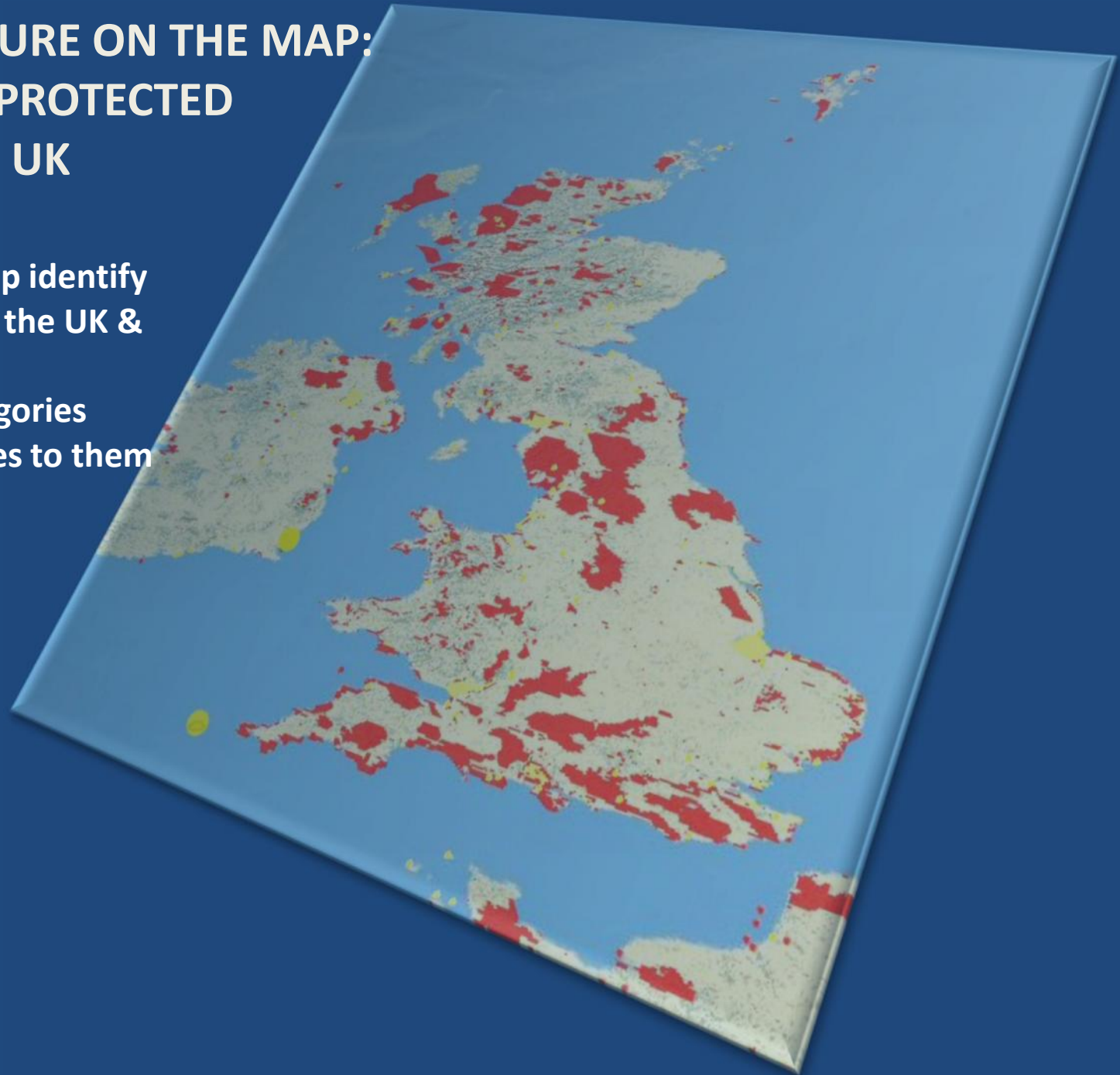- ✓ Request from WCPA Chair to stimulate activity

UK How?

➢ Expert group WCPA members to lead

➢ Funding from IUCN members and PA bodies

➢ Consultants drew up specification

➢ Sounding of wider PA community

➢ Interaction with UNEP WCMC

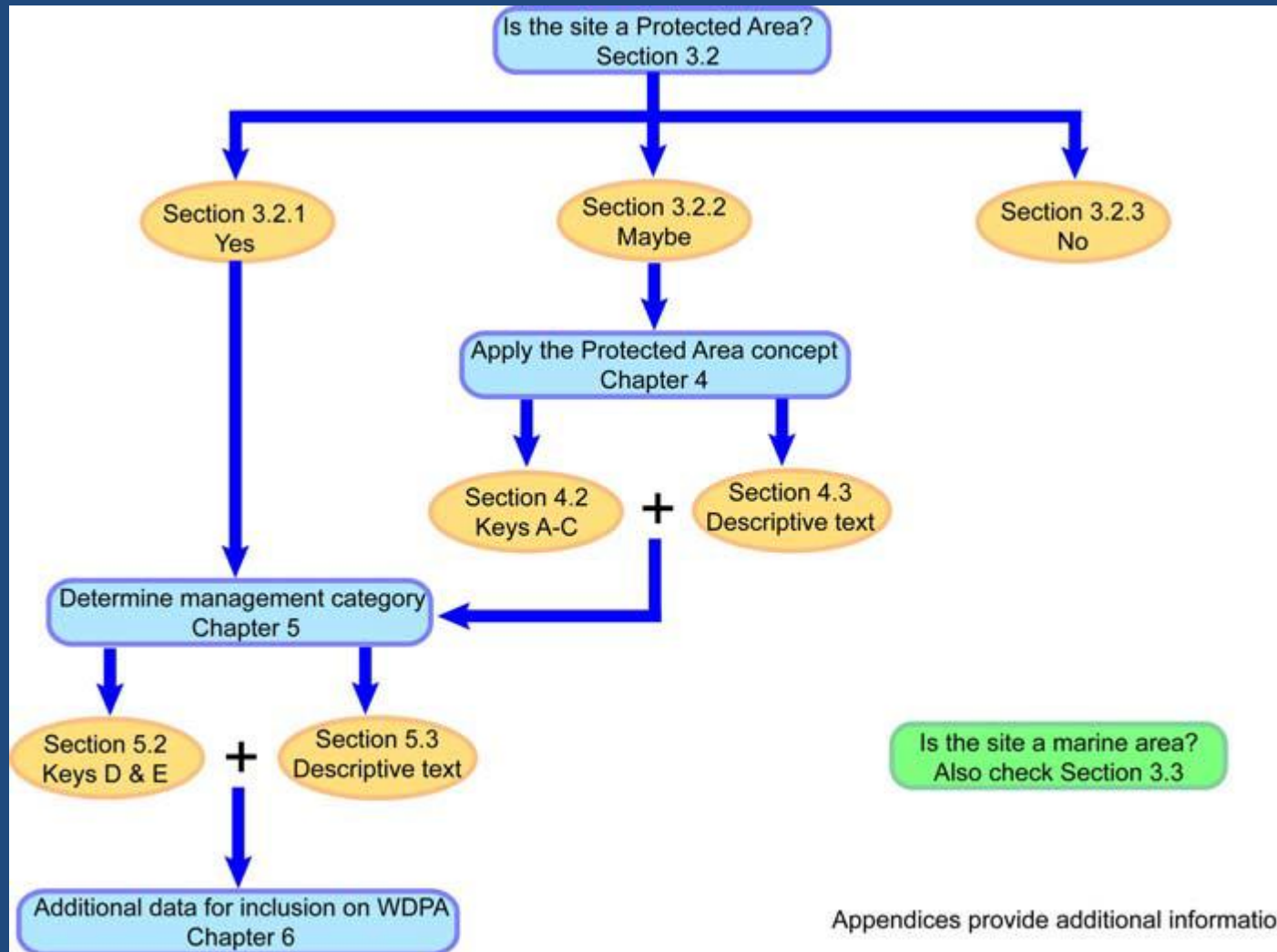➢ Organisations volunteered to do assessments

The Sibthorp Trust

PUTTING NATURE ON THE MAP: IDENTIFYING PROTECTED AREAS IN THE UK
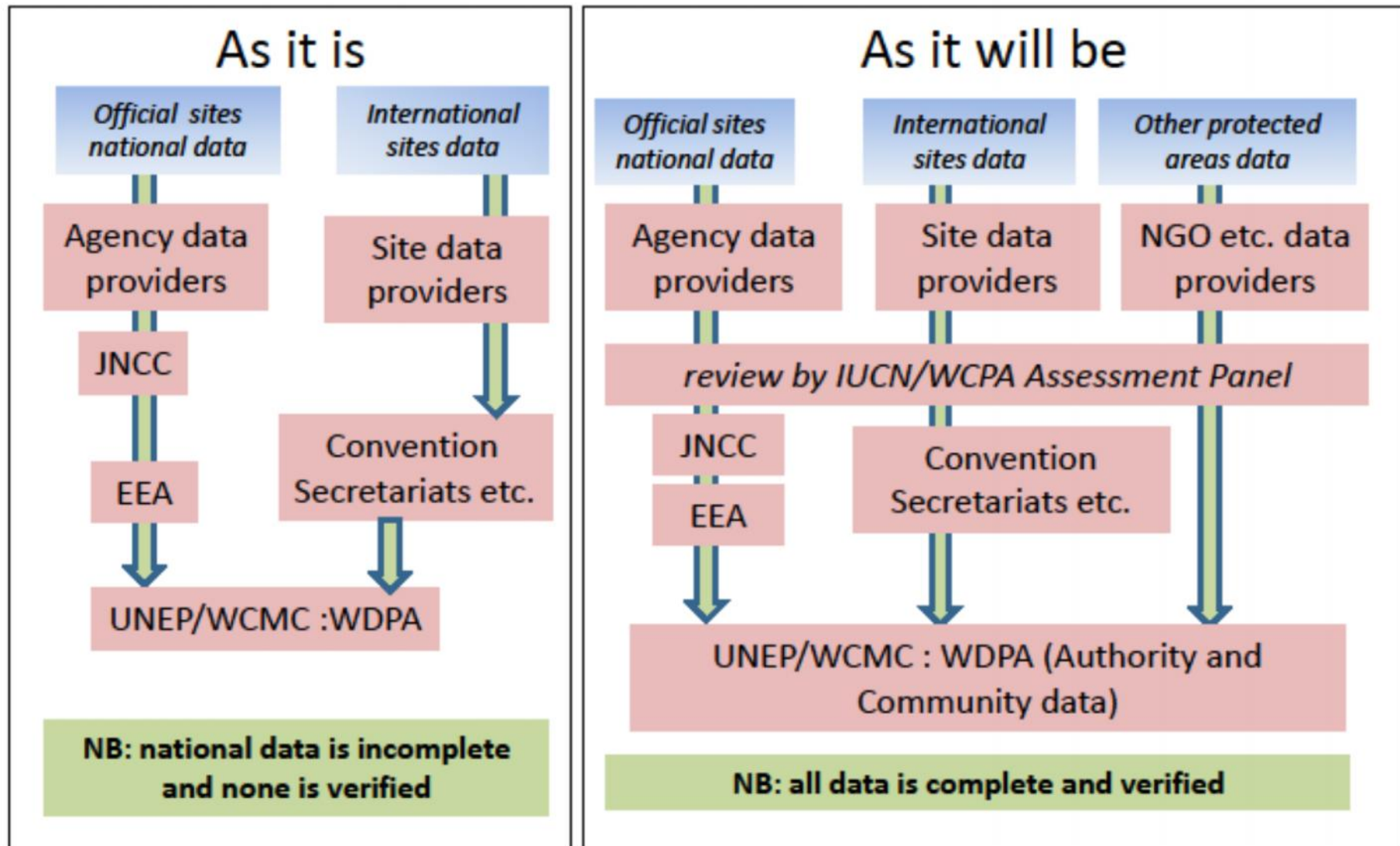
A handbook to help identify protected areas in the UK & assign the IUCN management categories & governance types to them

FLOW CHART FOR THE TWO STEP TEST

Protected areas data flow

As it is

Official sites national data → Agency data providers → JNCC → EEA → UNEP/WCMC :WDPA

International sites data → Site data providers → Convention Secretariats etc. → UNEP/WCMC :WDPA

NB: national data is incomplete and none is verified

As it will be

Official sites national data → Agency data providers

International sites data → Site data providers

Other protected areas data → NGO etc. data providers

review by IUCN/WCPA Assessment Panel

JNCC → EEA

Convention Secretariats etc.

UNEP/WCMC : WDPA (Authority and Community data)

NB: all data is complete and verified

UK New approaches?

✓ Developed Handbook on assessment with 2 step process
✓ Established Assessment Panel
✓ Commissioned Statements of Compliance
✓ Invited ownership bodies to undertake assessments

www.iucn-uk.org

Austria Why?
- ✓ PA bodies wanted independent assessment
- ✓ Federal Ministry needed independent verification to release resources
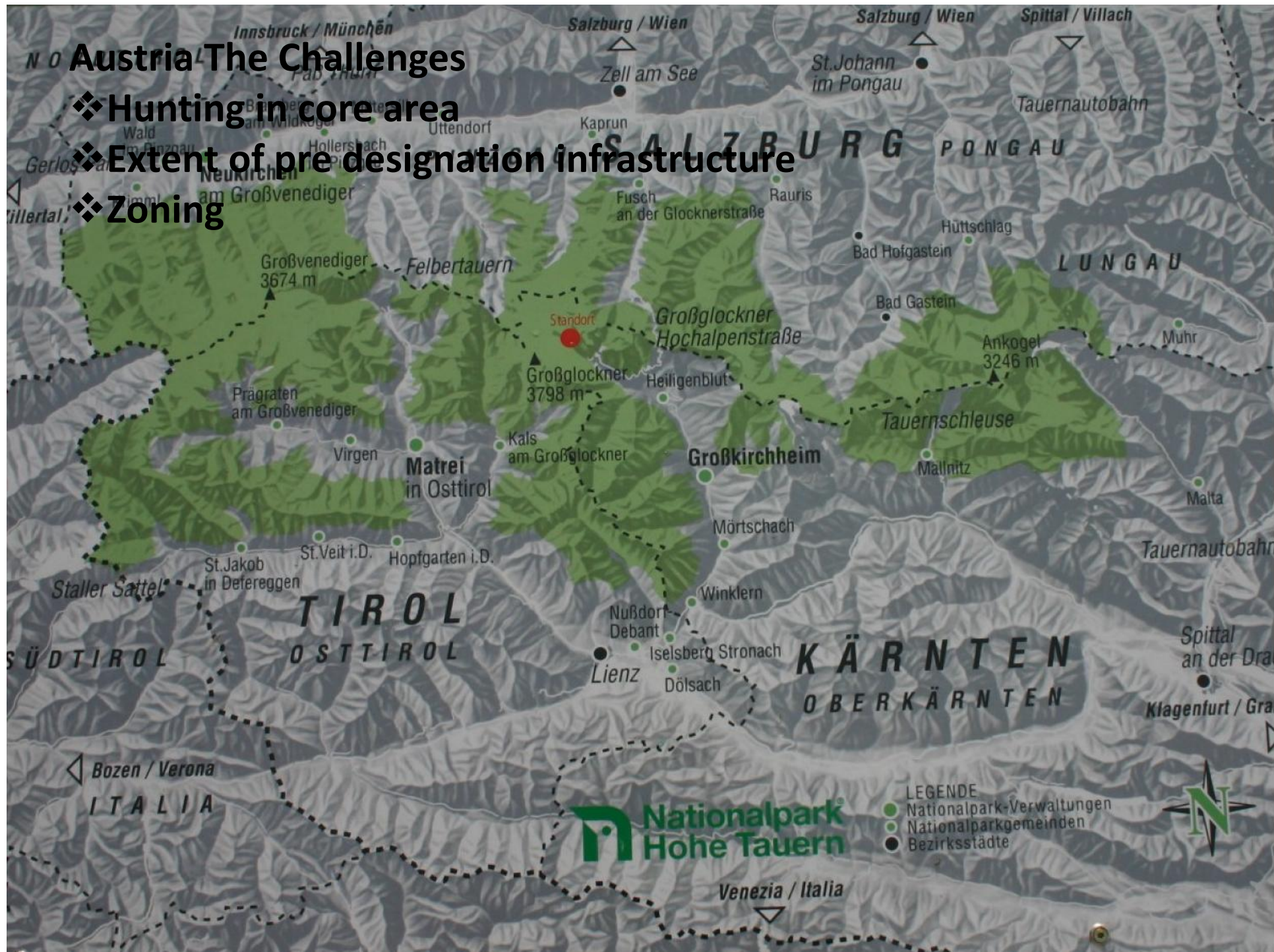
EXAMPLE 2: CERTIFICATION

Austria The Challenges
❖ **Hunting in core area**
❖ **Extent of pre designation infrastructure**
❖ **Zoning**

Austria How?

✓WCPA Europe experts visit & report on category assignment & issues to be addressed

✓Regional Vice Chair & Head IUCN PAP review

✓Recommendation to WCPA Chair for Certificate

✓Certificate signed by Head IUCN and Head of WCMC

IUCN
The World Conservation Union

UNEP WCMC

Declare the

Hohe Tauern National Park (Carinthia)

a protected area fulfilling the criteria for National Parks and therefore is to be included in the UN-List of Protected Areas as a

Category II Protected Area

Gland, Switzerland, 23 July, 2001

Achim Steiner
Director General, IUCN

Mark Collins
Director, UNEP-WCMC

Austria Outcome
✓**Federal Ministry provides additional resources**
✓**PA body gets recognition of management standards**
✓**Data onto World Database on PAs**