



Global Research and Training Centre for Internationally Designated Areas



Purpose

GCIDA was established to provide the international community with research and training programmes aimed at improving the management of internationally designated areas (IDAs), including Multi-Internationally Designated Areas (MIDAs)

Functions

GCIDA carries out the following activities related to Multi-Internationally Designated Areas

- 1 Disseminating advanced knowledge and best practices
- 2 Conducting case studies and developing management guidelines
- 3 Strengthening the capacities of site managers
- 4 Providing customized advice and support
- 5 Building networks and promoting cooperation at the national and international levels

Vision

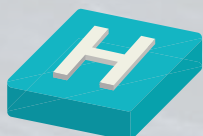
Global hub for research and training on
(Multi-) Internationally Designated Areas

Major Strategies



Hub

Establishing a global hub for MIDAs and IDAs research and training through harmony and innovation



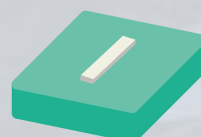
Harmonization

Pursuing harmony between humans and nature, coordination among IDAs, and integrated management of MIDAs



Innovation

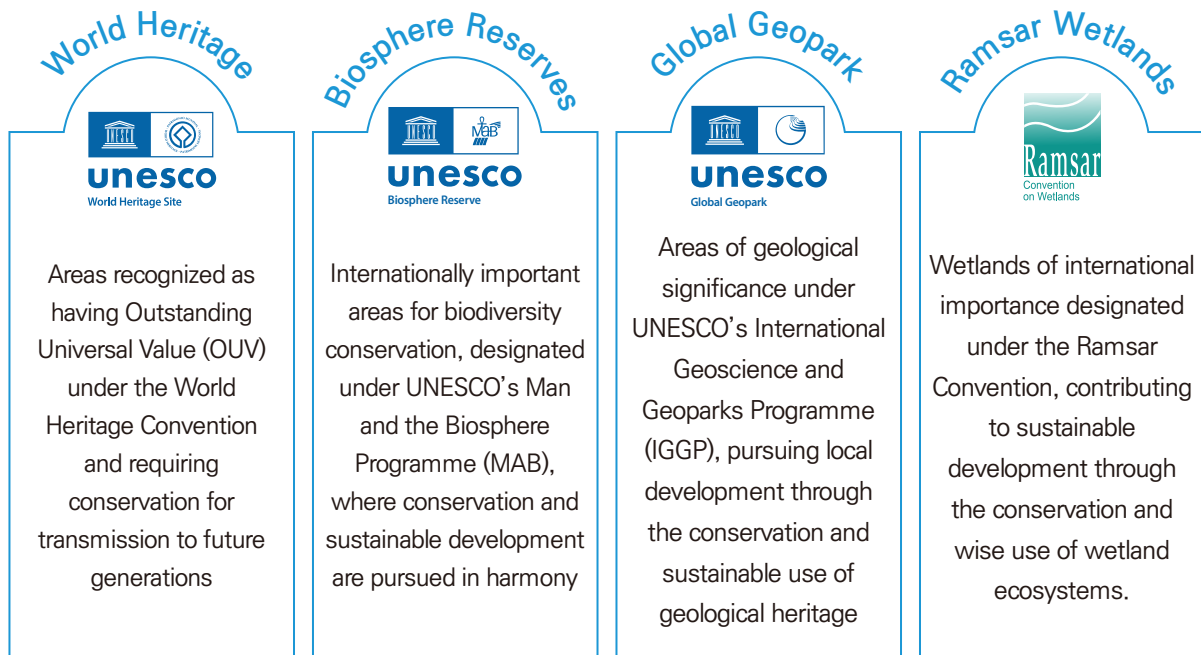
Creating new contributions and synergies through innovative approaches



HI GCIDA!

What is an Internationally Designated Area (IDA)

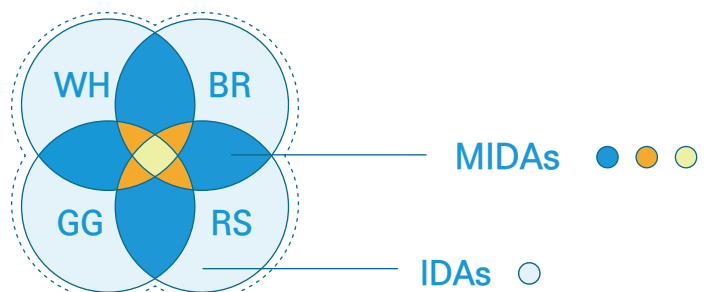
Internationally Designated Areas are sites recognized for their remarkable natural environments and geological and ecological values, and designated by UNESCO or other international bodies as World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks, or Ramsar Sites



What is a Multi-Internationally Designated Area?

Multi-Internationally Designated Areas (MIDAs) are places where two or more internationally designated areas overlap, either partially or entirely. There are approximately 380 MIDAs worldwide. As their diverse ecological, geological, and even cultural values come together to create greater benefits, integrated management is needed to address the challenges arising from multiple designations and to achieve a balanced approach to conservation and sustainable development

WH World Heritage
BR Biosphere Reserves
GG Global Geopark
RS Ramsar





GCIDA's Achievements

Research Projects



2025

Establishment of a Mid- to Long-Term Development Strategy
IDA Vision Forum Held
Jeju Youth Forum Held
Establishment of a Master Plan for the Customized Support Program for IDAs
Establishment of a Master Plan for MIDAs Information Hub

2026

Collaboration with UNESCO on *MIDAs Guidebook*
Collaboration with IUCN on *Managing MIDAs 2.0*

Training Projects



2024

Holding the MIDAs Managers Capacity-Building Workshop co-hosted by IUCN and ICCROM (ongoing)

2025

Holding the Academy for Future Generations on Protected Areas (ongoing)
MIDAs Eco-Guides and Interpreters Workshop Held

Exchange & Cooperation



2025

Holding a MIDAs Session at 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress (co-organized with IUCN and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province)
Holding a side event at the 5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (co-organized with UNESCO MAB-ROK and USBN)
Participation in the 37th MAB-ICC
Joining to the Asia Protected Areas Partnership

2026

Participation in the 16th meeting of the SeaBRnet
Holding a side event at the 48th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (co-organized with IUCN and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province)



GCIDA's Key Initiatives

MIDAs Information Hub

- A web-based platform providing comprehensive information on MIDAs, including their global distribution, management cases, improvement strategies, and educational materials
- Providing comprehensive search and utilization functions for MIDAs-related information to various stakeholders, including site managers, policymakers, researchers, and local communities

Customized Support Programme for IDAs/MIDAs

- Supporting IDAs/MIDAs site managers by matching relevant experts on on-site issues and challenges that site managers faced, including new designations, management improvement, periodic reporting, and related tasks
- Providing various kinds of tailored expert advice like online and on-site advice and education to site managers of Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks, and MIDAs

Capacity-Building Workshop on the Management of MIDAs

- An international workshop for the effective management of MIDAs, co-organized by UNESCO, IUCN, and ICCROM
- Providing training programs for MIDAs site managers worldwide to enhance MIDAs integrated management capabilities

Proposed Initiatives

MIDAs Network and Forum

Establishing of a network encompassing international organization officials, site managers, local residents, and NGOs involved in the designation and management of MIDAs and IDAs, and holding a regular forum in which they participate.

UNESCO Global Geoparks Capacity-Building Workshop

A workshop jointly organized with UNESCO to strengthen the capacities of UNESCO Global Geopark managers about application preparation, periodic report, and measures to address challenges

MIDAs Video Guide

A video series presenting the distinctive features of MIDAs and practical examples of integrated management, including local community participation, to be shared through the MIDAs Information Hub web site.



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