



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



**Ngā Pou  
Taunaha o  
Aotearoa**

New Zealand  
Geographic Board

## Standard for Crown protected area names

NZGBS60001

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## Pepeha/Saying

Rauhītia te wāhi, ka rauhī ai i tōna ātaahua ōna kōrero, ōna pūnaha hauropi, ōna koiora.

Protect an area, you protect its beauty, its histories, its ecosystems, its life.

## Introduction

This standard must be used for applications from DOC to assign or alter an official name for a CPA.

Under the NZGBA the NZGB reviews and may concur with proposals for official names for CPAs received from DOC.

CPAs protect conservation values, natural features, and cultural heritage values. Official names are assigned to CPAs in recognition of their significance. An official name provides an effective, easy to use, and appropriate reference to that area.

This standard is closely aligned to international best practice for standardised, consistent and accurate naming of protected areas.

The NZGB has developed this standard in consultation with the Minister of Conservation to define the requirements that the NZGB will use when reviewing proposals to assign or alter Crown protected area official names. All proposals to assign or alter CPA official names must meet this standard, before the NZGB may concur.

## Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this standard these terms and definitions apply:

<b>Term/abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
altered name	The name of a feature or place or Crown protected area that has been changed and made an official name.
alternative name	One of two or more official geographic names for the same feature, place, or Crown protected area. Alternative names may be used separately or together.
assigned name	The official name of a feature, place, or Crown protected area that did not previously have an official name. It may have had a recorded name or not had a name.
associated name	A feature, place or Crown protected area with the same specific term as another feature, place, or Crown protected area based on their physical connection or proximity.
CPA or Crown protected area	'Crown protected area' as defined in section 4 of the NZGBA and Ramsar or World Heritage areas/sites.
DOC	Department of Conservation.
dual specific term	Two specific terms from different languages, usually Māori and English, used together as one specific term.
generic term	Forms the second part of an official CPA name, describing the type of area. Refer to Appendix A of this standard.
NZGB	New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa.
NZGBA	New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008.
official geographic name or official name	'Official geographic name' as defined in section 4 of the NZGBA.
original Māori name	A Māori place name that existed prior to European settlement whether or not it has been spelled correctly.
orthography or orthographic conventions	The conventions and rules of how to write a language.
Place	As defined in section 4 of the NZGBA.
Ramsar site or area	A Ramsar site or area is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention was established in 1971 by UNESCO and came into force in 1975.
recorded name	As defined in section 4 of the NZGBA.
specific term	The first part of an official name for a CPA, based on the principles outlined in section 3.3 of this standard.
World Heritage Site or Area	A World Heritage Site or Area is an area designated to be of international significance under the World Heritage Convention. The primary purpose is to identify and protect the world's natural and cultural heritage considered to be of outstanding universal value.

## Purpose and authority of the standard

This standard specifies the criteria that the NZGB must use to review proposals for an official name for a CPA in accordance with the NZGBA. It meets the requirement of s12(b) of the NZGBA to develop rules, standards, or guidelines in consultation with the Minister of Conservation for the naming of CPAs.

## References

This standard should be read in conjunction with the following:

- NZGBA
- Conservation Act 1987
- Marine Reserves Act 1971
- National Parks Act 1980
- Reserves Act 1977
- Frameworks of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, Version 10, April 2018
- NZGB Strategic Plan
- UNGEGN<sup>1</sup> Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names
- NZGB *Generic Terms* policy
- NZGB's 2018 statement on the use of macrons to standardise Māori place names

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

# 1 Scope

This standard specifies the:

- (a) criteria and principles applicable for CPA official names within the territorial limits of New Zealand,
- (b) requirements to enable the NZGB to review and concur with a proposal, and
- (c) the process for DOC to follow when making a CPA official name proposal.

The NZGB will take into account these criteria and principles when reviewing a proposal from DOC to assign a new, or alter an existing, CPA official name.

## 2 Crown protected areas

For the purposes of this standard CPA means 'Crown protected area' as defined in section 4 of the NZGBA and Ramsar or World Heritage areas/sites.

Section 4 of the NZGBA defines a CPA as:

- (d) land or an interest in land held under the Conservation Act 1987 for the purpose of a conservation park, ecological area, sanctuary area, or wilderness area, or for any other specified purpose, as provided for in Part 4 of that Act,
- (e) a government purpose reserve, historic reserve, nature reserve, recreation reserve, scenic reserve, or scientific reserves, as provided for in Part 3 of the Reserves Act 1977 (but not a reserve that is vested in a local authority),
- (f) a marine reserve, as defined in s 2 of the Marine Reserves Act 1971, and
- (g) a national park, as defined in s 2 of the National Parks Act 1980.

## 3 Crown protected area names

### 3.1 Official Crown protected area names

**CPA name = 'Specific Term' + 'Generic Term'**

The official name for a CPA is comprised in two parts; a specific term and a generic term:

- (a) Specific Term: this forms the first part of an official CPA name and is based on the criteria and principles noted below.
- (b) Generic Term: this must be one of the approved terms in Appendix A.

In exceptional circumstances the NZGB may concur with a proposal that does not conform with this standard for naming CPAs, subject to the Minister of Conservation's approval.

## 3.2 Criteria for CPA official names

- (a) Official CPA names must be sufficiently distinct to avoid confusion with other CPA names or unrelated features and places.
- (b) The proposed official CPA name must have both a specific and generic term.
- (c) The generic term of a CPA official name must state the type of area being named.
- (d) Generic terms must not be abbreviated.
- (e) Generic terms must be selected from the list in Appendix A.
- (f) Official CPA names should use English or te reo Māori orthography.

## 3.3 Principles for the specific term

These principles are to be used for forming the specific term of an official CPA name.

- (a) Existing names or names that are in common local use should normally take precedence over new names as per NZ standard<sup>2</sup>.
- (b) The specific term should be associated with a geographic feature or place within or near the CPA.
- (c) Geographic feature types or qualifying words may be used to distinguish between associated features or CPAs with the same name.
- (d) The specific term may acknowledge predominant or significant flora, fauna, rock, soil, recreational activity, or industry present within the CPA.
- (e) The specific term may reflect New Zealand's culture, society, exploration, events, tradition and history related to the CPA, including those of Māori, pre-European contact.
- (f) The specific term may recognise the priority of discovery of significant geographic features within the CPA, including those of Māori, pre-European contact. The NZGB encourages the restoration of original Māori place names.
- (g) Descriptive specific terms that characterise shape, colour, composition or other distinguishing features of the CPA may be used provided they are not too general and need to be explained.
- (h) The specific term may contribute to a naming theme in an area.
- (i) The specific term may be used to honour the memory of significant people associated with the CPA. Where CPA official names are used for posthumous commemoration:

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<sup>2</sup> This includes names that would normally conform to this standard but may not comply with all provisions of this section (eg possessive names, hyphens, apostrophes, word separations, composite words).

- (i) surnames are preferable as per the NZ standard,
- (ii) naming will be limited to people who have made an outstanding, significant or fundamental contribution to conservation, protection or cultural heritage matters, and
- (iii) the person must have had a direct link with the area during their lifetime.
- (j) The specific term may acknowledge associations involved in the proposal, planning, development, establishment, administration, and management of the CPA.
- (k) The specific term should be short and simple.
- (l) A specific term that reflects or is associated with other geographic features or places should use the same spelling.
- (m) Acronyms, abbreviations or numeric digits should not be used.

### 3.4 Unacceptable specific terms

Proposed specific terms that conform with the following will not be considered as complying with the accepted standard:

- (a) A name that already exists in a neighbouring area or is already in use throughout New Zealand. This avoids confusion and makes it easier to identify the correct place in an emergency. However, associated names with different generic terms are allowed.
- (b) Long names. The NZGB may take into account the impact on emergency services, and the name's cultural, traditional or historical importance.
- (c) The names of institutions, organisations, commercial entities, commercial products, contributors of funds, or similar.
- (d) A name related to friends or relations of the individual proposing the name (this does not apply to ancestral names proposed by descendants).
- (e) A name related to the person from DOC proposing the name.
- (f) Names that are derogatory, discriminatory, frivolous, offensive or in poor taste.
- (g) The name of a person in high office who has not contributed directly and significantly to the CPA or who is not associated with the CPA.
- (h) The name of a person who has donated to or sponsored the creation of the CPA unless paragraphs 3.3(i) and (j) are appropriate.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> This provision is to ensure that the commemoration of personal names for a CPA cannot be purchased.



### 3.5 CPA official name spelling standards

- (a) Official CPA names should generally conform to the conventions and rules of standard NZ English or te reo Māori. The NZGB may take into account historical spelling or long term local use.
- (b) The correct use of macrons on Māori place names is dependent on expert advice from a licensed translator, as per the NZ standard. The orthographic conventions of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) are to be followed.
- (c) The addition of a macron to an existing official CPA Māori name does not usually alter the meaning of that Māori place name but standardises its written form.
- (d) The English possessive form should not be used. However, existing names with the possessive [s] that have been in long term use will not be altered.
- (e) Foreign names should be in the form of the country of origin.
- (f) Numbers, roman numerals, abbreviations, acronyms, or similar should not be used. The exception is the honorific 'Saint' which is abbreviated to 'St'.

### 3.6 Altered CPA official names

- (a) A CPA official name may be altered when:
  - it is culturally inappropriate,
  - the change corrects a significant wrong or grievance,
  - it is confusing or ambiguous,
  - the status of the reserve classification changes,
  - it does not follow established long term local or common use,
  - the change standardises the orthography (unless it is standardising with macrons).

### 3.7 Using dual specific terms

- (a) Dual specific terms, where both specific terms are used together as one specific term, recognise the equal and specific significance of both terms. Generally, an original Māori name should be the first part of a dual specific term in recognition of the right of first discovery. The order may be reversed in special circumstances, such as where there are considerations for emergency services and maritime safety responses.
- (b) Dual specific terms are to be separated by a forward slash with a space either side.

### 3.8 Alternative CPA official names

There should be one official name for one place. Alternative official names are only assigned in exceptional circumstances. If alternative official names are assigned either name can be used.

## 4 Consultation

- (a) Consultation with appropriate Māori groups, relevant interested parties and the public is a requirement for the consideration of a proposed official CPA name.
- (b) Consultation on a proposed CPA official name may be carried out separately or as part of the wider consultation for the establishment of a CPA.
- (c) DOC must provide evidence of the consultation it has undertaken.
- (d) Inadequate consultation and/or evidence of consultation could result in the proposal being delayed and/or consultation being re-done.

## 5 The process for Crown protected area official names

A flowchart of the process is attached in Appendix B.

To find out how to make a CPA official name proposal and the process the NZGB follows see:

<https://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/place-names/propose-place-name/proposing-crown-protected-area-names>

## Appendix A: Approved generic terms

This table lists the generic terms for CPA official names that are in DOC legislation and that the NZGB and DOC have approved.

Generic term	Definition
Amenity Area	a conservation area held for the purpose of an amenity area under section 23A of the Conservation Act 1987
Conservation Park	a conservation area held for the purpose of a conservation park under section 19 of the Conservation Act 1987
Ecological Area	a conservation area held for the purpose of an ecological area under section 21 of the Conservation Act 1987
Sanctuary Area	a conservation area held for the purpose of a sanctuary area under sections 18AA and 22 of the Conservation Act 1987
Watercourse Area	a conservation area held for the purpose of a watercourse area under section 23 of the Conservation Act 1987
Wilderness Area	a conservation area held for the purpose of a wilderness area under sections 18AA and 20 of the Conservation Act 1987
Wildlife Management Area	a conservation area held for the purpose of a wildlife management area under section 23B of the Conservation Act 1987
National Park	an area declared to be a national park under sections 6 and 7 of the National Parks Act 1980
Marine Reserve	a reserve area declared to be a marine reserve under section 4 of the Marine Reserves Act 1971
Historic Reserve	a reserve area classified as, and / or held for the purpose of, an historic reserve under the Reserves Act 1977
Nature Reserve	a reserve area classified as, and / or held for the purpose of, a nature reserve under the Reserves Act 1977
Recreation Reserve	a reserve area classified as, and / or held for the purpose of, a recreation reserve under the Reserves Act 1977
Scientific Reserve	a reserve area classified as, and / or held for the purpose of, a scientific reserve under the Reserves Act 1977
Scenic Reserve	a reserve area classified as, and / or held for the purpose of, a scenic reserve under the Reserves Act 1977
Government Purpose Reserve	a reserve area classified as, and / or held for the purpose of, a government purpose reserve under the Reserves Act 1977

Generic term	Definition
Ramsar Wetland or Wetland	<p>a wetland area or site that may be designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if it is not to be a Ramsar wetland then the generic term 'Wetland' applies</li> <li>• if it is to be a Ramsar wetland then either generic term 'Ramsar Wetland' or 'Wetland' can apply</li> </ul>
World Heritage Area or World Heritage Site	an area or site designated to be of international importance under the World Heritage Convention

## Appendix B: Flowchart of the process for Crown protected area naming

