Selected protected area categories in Germany

Protected area category	Legal basis under the Federal Nature Conservation Act*1	Number	Area (hectare)	Percentage of land surface* ²	Status
Nature conservation area	§ 23	8,676	1,378,410 * ³ 1,902,812 * ⁴	3.9 * ³	12/2014
National park	§ 24	16	214,558 * ³ 1,047,859 * ⁴	0.6 *3	11/2015
National natural monument	§ 24 (4)	-	-	-	11/2015
Biosphere reserve	§ 25	17	1,311,636 *³ 1,977,682 * ⁴	3.7 *3	02/2016
Landscape protection area	§ 26	8,531	10,017,634 *7	27.9	12/2014
Nature park	§ 27	103	9,946,967	27.9	02/2016
Habitats Directive site under 92/43/EEC	§ 32, 33	4,557	3,348,220 * ⁵ 5,447,907 * ⁶	9.4 * ⁵	11/2015
Bird Directives site under 79/409/EEC	§ 32, 33	742	4,030,119 * ⁵ 5,996,580 *6	11.3 *5	11/2015

Source: Federal Agency for Nature Conservation 2016 using data from the German Bundesländer and protected area administrations Data as of: 02/2016

*1 Protected areas as defined under the Federal Nature Conservation Act, citing the article in which the protected area category is defined.

*² Reference: Statistical land area (excluding intertidal and marine areas)

*³ Excluding water surface area of the North Sea and Baltic Sea

*4 Including water surface and intertidal areas in the North Sea and Baltic Sea, and marine areas in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

*5 Terrestrial areas (excluding Lake Constance, intertidal, bodden and marine areas)

*6 Including Lake Constance, intertidal, bodden and marine areas

*7 Excluding water surface areas in the North Sea. For Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, including water surface areas in the Greifswalder Bodden landscape protection area