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Governor



ASCENSION

No. 1 of 2025

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AN ORDINANCE

To amend the National Protected Areas Ordinance, 2003 to reflect a modern approach to the designation of protected areas, and for connected and incidental matters.

Citation and commencement

1. (1) This Ordinance may be cited as the National Protected Areas (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025.
- (2) This Ordinance come into force on 1 March 2025.

Amendments to the National Protected Areas Ordinance, 2003

2. The National Protected Areas Ordinance, 2003 is amended as follows.
3. In section 2 (Interpretation) after the definition of “fisheries protection officer”, insert:

““**management plan**” has the meaning given to it in section 4A(2);”.
4. In section 4 (Purpose and use of National Parks, etc.)—

AA 2 No.1 National Protected Areas (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025.

- (a) in subsection 4(1)(b), for “maintaining a proper balance in the natural ecology of the area, and for that purpose” substitute “protecting native biodiversity and the habitats, ecosystems and natural processes that support it”;
- (b) in subsection (1)(b)(i), for “ensure a proper balance in the natural ecology of the area” substitute “protect native biodiversity and the habitats, ecosystems and natural processes that support it”;
- (c) for subsection (2) substitute—

“(2) The declaration of an area as a Sanctuary must be made primarily for the purpose of protecting native biodiversity and the habitats, ecosystems and natural processes that support it, and the avoidance of disturbance of the area by human activity, either at any time or at particular times according to the circumstances and the form of biodiversity that it is desired to protect.”

- 5. In section 4A (Marine Protected Areas, Management Plans and Regulations), in subsection (3)(c) for “Conservation Officer”, in both places it occurs, substitute “Director of Conservation and Fisheries”.

Revocation of the Green Mountain National Park Regulations, 2010

- 6. The Green Mountain National Park Regulations, 2010 are revoked.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Ordinance)

This Ordinance amends the National Protected Areas Ordinance, 2003 (“the Ordinance”) and repeals Green Mountain National Park Regulations, 2010 (“the Regulations”). Section 3 defines the term “management plan” for the Ordinance and all subsidiary legislation, to allow for management plans to be referred to in legislation for Protected Areas other than Marine Protected Areas. Section 4 amends section 4 of the Ordinance to reflect the updated goals of protected areas with those of current standards within the field of conservation. Section 5 amends paragraph 4A(3)(c) of the Ordinance to remove reference to the position of Conservation Officer, which no longer exists, and allocate those obligations of that subparagraph to the Director of Conservation and Fisheries. Section 6 revokes the Green Mountain National Park Regulations, 2010 for the purpose of clarity in legislation, as all requirements and obligations in the Regulations are also present in the National Protected Areas Regulations, 2014.