Existing guidance on the management of protected areas

Ramsar Sites Management Toolkit
https://www.ramsar.org/resources/ramsar-sites-management-toolkit

Ramsar offers a Sites Management Toolkit on their website through which one can quickly and easily find information on specific stages of management planning, such as the description of the site, planning, management, monitoring, or evaluation and review. Alternatively, one of the three featured documents can be downloaded: The Designation and Management of Ramsar Sites (2017), Wetlands Management Planning: a guide for site managers (2008) and Handbook 18; managing wetlands (2010).

"The Designation and Management of Ramsar Sites" provides guidance on how management of Ramsar Sites can contribute to implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 and other international processes. It also identifies key information sources, including non-Ramsar publications, to help site managers, administrators and partners. Although this guidance targets managers of wetlands, it is also relevant for terrestrial protected areas.

The document offers a simple step-by-step process, describing the designation and subsequent management of Ramsar Sites within the Ramsar Convention Framework. It should not be regarded as a definitive or exhaustive guide, but more as a starting point to understand the process and a reference for identifying key information and sources for further reading.

The document includes information and guidance on assessing the ecosystem services provided by a site , site designation including how to gain community support for the designation, site description including identification of threats to the site, planning and financing including establishing a management committee, monitoring and evaluation and communication, capacity building, education, awareness and participation (CEPA).

IUCN Best Practice Guidelines
https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/publications/best-practice-guidelines

IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) has a tradition of proposing global guidelines to protected area practitioners. These publications cover various topics, such as protected areas and visitor management, the management of wilderness areas, transboundary conservation, governance and protected areas, ecological restoration and adaptation to climate change. There is also an issue on applying protected area management categories.

Additional information can be found in two PDF's: "Guidelines for privately protected areas" and "Managing Protected Areas"

IUCN Green List for Protected Areas
The IUCN Green List Sustainability Standard is a new global standard for protected and conserved areas. It aims to improve the contribution that equitably governed, and effectively managed protected areas make to sustainable development through the conservation of nature and provision of associated social, economic, cultural, and spiritual values. The Green List is a way of setting a standard for how protected areas could or should be managed. The IUCN green list of protected and conserved areas intends to celebrate successfully protected areas, and help other protected areas lift their standards by showcasing successful examples.

Potential sites for the Green List are assessed against four criteria: good governance, design, effective management and conservation outcomes. The pilot stage of the green list is now complete, and the IUCN is working with park management agencies to assess areas for inclusion.

IUCN Protected Area Management Categories

IUCN protected area management categories classify protected areas according to their management objectives. The categories are recognised by international bodies such as the United Nations and many national governments as the global standard for defining and recording protected areas, and as such are increasingly being incorporated into government legislation.

More information on applying these categorisations for management planning can be found on: https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/PAG-021.pdf (Guidelines for applying protected areas management guidelines)

See also PDF for an introduction into the IUCN Protected Areas Management Categories.

EUROPARC Federation toolbox
http://www.europarc.org/toolbox/

The EUROPARC Federation website hosts a toolbox with a wide variety of case studies, videos and toolkits on topics relevant to management planning for protected areas. The website of the EUROPARC Federation has a specific section attributed to (sustainable) tourism and protected areas, including a charter on tourism and protected areas. Through this charter the organisation aims to balance the need for the public to visit and recreate in protected areas without jeopardising the basic goals of protected areas; protecting biodiversity. The organisation calls upon members to become a "sustainable Destination".

The topics covered include biodiversity conservation, climate change, capacity building, community involvement, ecosystem services, forestry, fresh water ecosystems, invasive species, large carnivores, sustainable agriculture and sustainable tourism.

The toolbox offers a lot of information on these topics but does not provide structured guidance on how to tackle issues as we intend to do with the Eurosite Management Planning Guidance.

The IMNC toolkit of the Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA)
http://increate.med-ina.org/en/page/interactive-tools

The Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA) has been working at the crossroads of nature conservation and culture. MedINA focuses on four priority targets–the cultural values of wetlands, landscapes, sacred natural sites and cultural practices– and is working on integrated approaches for the management and safeguarding of environmentally and culturally sensitive areas. The MedINA developed the «INCREAte Matrix for Nature-Culture links». IMNC is a web toolkit that enables the user to assess and report on identified linkages between elements of nature and elements of culture. The IMNC toolkit enables the users to apply the Step 4 of the «INCREAte approach» (Identification and assessment of nature-culture linkages). Linkages/connections are depicted in a matrix, in which the X axis contains the nodes of natural/environmental aspects and the Y axis contains the nodes of cultural aspects.

The Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation.

The Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) developed the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation. This tool helps teams to be systematic about planning, implementing, and

monitoring their conservation initiatives so they can learn what works, what does not work, and why — and ultimately adapt and improve their efforts. The Open Standards have also served as the framework for the development of the Miradi Adaptive Management Software Program. For example, the software provides teams with a tool for visualizing and documenting:

- what they want to conserve;
- what threats and opportunities are affecting their conservation targets;
- which threats are of greatest significance;
- how their actions are believed to influence the situation at their site; and
- how they will operationalize their strategic plan via a work plan and budget.

The Open Standards is available is seven languages.

WWF Project and Programme Management Standards.

The Open Standard has been the bases for WWF's Project and Programme Management Standards (PPMS). The WWF Standards are a set of best practice actions to help practitioners deliver conservation results. The Standards lend consistency to planning, implementing and monitoring effective conservation projects and programmes worldwide.

WWF has developed a large portfolio of guidance material for applying the Programme Standards. This guidance material covers each step and sub step of the Open Standards, as well as detailed suggestions about Stakeholder Analysis, Risk Assessment, Climate Adaptation, Operational Planning, Programme Capacity Assessment, Financial Modelling, and much more.