

This paper provides an overview of the main characteristics and evolution of protected areas in Catalonia during the last forty years, including a diagnose of the present situation and a set of proposals for the future. The scope of the diagnose includes the structure of the system, the legal frame, the governance models and public participation, the available resources, the pressures and threats, the conservation, social and economic outcomes of protected areas, and the research and monitoring. Proposals to improve the present system, on protected areas of Catalonia on the mid-term include the model, legislation, planning, governance and management, including coordination and cooperation with sectoral policies, ecological connectivity, improved protection and restoration strategies, monitoring, effectiveness evaluation, surveillance and environmental justice, and adaptation to climate change.