

## 2.3 Protect natural systems

Related Credit: NS-R2: Natural Systems Protection



After evaluating the natural assets of the site, design teams must build around existing natural assets and offset any disruption caused by development.

Where significant and valuable assets are present, a Natural Systems Protection, Mitigation and/or Compensation Strategy with supporting studies must be prepared by a suitably qualified ecological specialist.



The ecological features of the site can either be protected or disturbance can be mitigated. Three strategies to do this are

identified in the Pearl Rating System. These are summarised in Table 2.3:

If the Natural Systems Assessment clearly documents that the site has no significant or valuable natural assets, the site does not need protection or mitigation. Other credits will be achieved under the PBRS if the project provides landscaping that consists of native species and uses minimal water.

All significant natural assets associated with a protected area, national park, a coastal park, ecological hotspot, or a

coastal conservation zone, must be protected, and 80% of valuable assets protected.

If part of the project's natural systems strategy included mitigation or compensation, at least 70% of significant assets and 50% of valuable assets must be protected. If mitigation occurs on-site, new habitat areas must equal the area of the lost assets. If on-site mitigation is impractical and off-site compensation must be pursued, the new habitat area must be twice the area of assets lost.

Table 2.3

Strategy	Significant assets to be protected on site (% of significant assets)	Valuable assets to be protected on site (% of valuable assets)	Maximum reclaimed land (% of land area)	Max impact affecting the coastal edge (% of coastal edge)	Mitigate/ Compensate lost habitat at an area replacement ratio of:	Other requirement / comment
1 - Protection	100%	80%	25%	20%	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain and protect from damage and destruction sufficient to maintain the features existing structure and function</li> </ul>
2 - Onsite Mitigation (UPC approval required)	70%	50%	25%	20%	2:1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide an ecological corridor between site and mitigated area.</li> <li>Confirmation of the appointment of a management and maintenance organization (min 5 year contract).</li> </ul>
3 - Offsite Compensation (UPC approval required)	70%	50%	25%	20%	2:1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compensation site in Emirate of Abu Dhabi, a degraded area and located outside Plan 2030 area.</li> <li>Confirmation of the appointment of a management and maintenance organization (min 5 year contract).</li> </ul>