

From the United Nations Environment Programme's Convention on Biological Diversity Technical Series No. 23 "Review of Experience with Ecological Networks, Corridors and Buffer Zones" published in March 2006.

The prime purpose of a buffer zone is to insulate areas where biodiversity conservation is the primary objective from potentially damaging external influences, and particularly from those caused by inappropriate forms of land use. In principle, this function therefore permits a range of sustainable human activities.

The concept of a buffer zone was first proposed in the 1930s, but it rose to prominence as a conservation instrument in the 1970s when it became an integral part of the management approach in UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme (UNESCO, 1974; 1995).

For the complete 90+ page document, go to <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-23.pdf>