Summary of JANIS criteria for establishing the CAR reserve system

Summarised from: Commonwealth of Australia (1997). Nationally agreed criteria fo the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate & representative reserve system for forest in Australia. A report by the Joint ANZECC/MCFFA National Forest Policy Statement Implementation Sub-committee. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

Biodiversity criteria

(1) "As a general criterion, 15% of the pre-1750 distribution of each forest ecosystem should be protected in the CAR reserve system with flexibility considerations applied according to regional circumstances, and recognising that as far as possible and practicable, the proportion of Dedicated Reserves should be maximised."

(2) "Where forest ecosystems are recognised as vulnerable, then at least 60% of their remaining extent should be reserved. A vulnerable forest ecosystem is one which is:
   i)   approaching a reduction in areal extent of 70% within a bioregional context and which remains subject to threatening processes; or
   ii)   not depleted but subject to continuing and significant threatening processes which may reduce its extent."

(3) "All remaining occurrences of rare and endangered forest ecosystems should be reserved or protected by other means as far as is practicable."

(4) "Reserved areas should be replicated across the geographic range of the forest ecosystem to decrease the likelihood that chance events such as wildfire or disease will cause the forest ecosystem to decline."

(5) "The reserve system should seek to maximise the area of high quality habitat for all known elements of biodiversity wherever practicable, but with particular reference to:
   - the special needs of rare, vulnerable or endangered species;
   - special groups of organisms, for example species with complex habitat requirements, or migratory or mobile species;
   - areas of high species diversity, natural refugia for flora and fauna, and centres of endemism; and
   - those species whose distributions and habitat requirements are not well correlated with any particular forest ecosystem."

(6) "Reserves should be large enough to sustain the viability, quality and integrity of populations."

(7) "To ensure representativeness, the reserve system should, as far as possible, sample the full range of biological variation within each forest ecosystem, by sampling the range of environmental variation typical of its geographic range and sampling its range of successional stages."

(8) "In fragmented landscapes, remnants that contribute to sampling the full range of biodiversity are vital parts of a forest reserve system. The areas should be identified and protected as part of the development of integrated regional conservation strategies."

Old growth criteria

(1) "Where old-growth forest is rare or depleted (generally less than 10% of the extant distribution) within a forest ecosystem, all viable examples should be protected, wherever possible. In practice, this would mean that most of the rare or depleted old-growth forest would be protected. Protection should be afforded through the range of mechanisms described in section 4."

(2) "For other forest ecosystems, 60% of the old-growth forest identified at the time of assessment would be protected... consistent with a flexible approach where appropriate, increasing to the levels of protection necessary to achieve the following objectives:
- the representation of old-growth forest across the geographic range of the forest ecosystem;
- the protection of high quality habitat for species identified under the biodiversity criterion;
- appropriate reserve design;
- protection of the largest and least fragmented areas of old growth;
- specific community needs for recreation and tourism."

Wilderness criteria

"Ninety percent, or more if practicable, of the area of high quality wilderness that meet minimum area requirements should be protected in reserves."

[Wilderness areas are determined through a process of determining wilderness areas using indicators from the National Wilderness Inventory, followed by a process of determining manageable boundaries.]