

Protected Planet Report 2014

Tracking progress towards global targets for protected areas



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The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is the specialist biodiversity assessment centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the world's foremost intergovernmental environmental organization. The Centre has been in operation for over 30 years, combining scientific research with practical policy advice.

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UNEP WCMC

UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

219 Huntingdon Road,
Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK

Tel: +44 1223 277314

www.unep-wcmc.org

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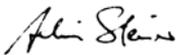
Foreword

In 2010, the signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed on a 10 year strategic plan to halt biodiversity loss and ensure the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources. This plan set out 20 biodiversity targets to be achieved by 2020 - the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Protected areas are the building blocks of healthy land and seascapes and are central to the achievement of these global targets. Moreover, they have played an important role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and are well placed to do the same for the future Sustainable Development Goals.

The Protected Planet Report series, launched in 2012, helps track international progress towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 - a target for the global protected area network and for other related targets. One of the key messages of the 2012 Protected Planet Report was that a better understanding and more complete overview of each element of Target 11 would be helpful. The 2014 Protected Planet Report provides just such an overview by summarizing current knowledge and progress towards each element of the overall target.

Due to steady increases in coverage over the last number of years, protected areas now cover 15.4 per cent of the world's terrestrial area and 8.4 per cent of the marine areas under national jurisdiction. This increase reflects the importance that countries are placing upon the conservation of biodiversity and the ecosystem services they provide. However, Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 will not be met solely by measuring the geographical coverage of protected areas. The target contains a number of qualitative elements including effectiveness, equitability, connectivity and ecological representation, each of which need to be better understood and addressed before we can say that this particular target has been attained.

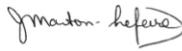
The launch of this report at the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 in Sydney is a call to action for protected areas governments and civil society that urgent efforts are required to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 by 2020. Together, as a society, we need to work towards ensuring that protected areas are prioritized as critical tools, not only to support biodiversity, but for the benefit of all life on this planet.



Achim Steiner
Executive Director,
UNEP



Bráulio Ferreira de
Souza Dias
Executive Secretary,
CBD



Julia Marton-
Lefèvre
Director General,
IUCN



Jon Hutton
Director,
UNEP-WCMC



Ernesto Enkerlin
Chair, IUCN WCPA

Executive Summary

A GLOBAL TARGET FOR PROTECTED AREAS

In 2010, the 192 State Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a Strategic Plan to halt biodiversity loss and ensure the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources. The plan includes the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, most of which are to be achieved by 2020. Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 reads: *By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.* This target sets out a series of equally important and necessary elements that a global protected area network should deliver.

AIM OF PROTECTED PLANET REPORT 2014

The Protected Planet Report 2014 follows the recommendation of the Protected Planet Report 2012 to provide a more complete overview of each of these elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. Chapters summarise current knowledge and progress towards achieving each element of the target, and provide further guidance for implementation, based on data from the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), a review of published literature, and expert review.

KEY MESSAGES

There has been notable progress in achieving some elements of Target 11, but others either have not been met, or not enough information is available to assess their status (Chapter 10). Key results and messages from this review are:

- **Global protected area coverage (Chapter 2):** About 209,000 protected areas (PAs) cover 15.4% of the planet's terrestrial and inland water areas, and 3.4 % of the oceans. 8.4% of all marine areas within national jurisdiction (0-200 nautical miles) are covered protected areas while only 0.25% of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction are protected. In total, 2.2 million square kilometres of land and inland water areas and 2.2 million square kilometres of marine area within national jurisdiction will need to be designated as protected areas to cover 17% of the land and 10% of the marine and coastal areas.
- **Coverage of biodiversity and ecosystem services (Chapter 3 and 6):** Protected areas do not sufficiently cover areas of particular importance for biodiversity (only 22-23% are completely covered by PAs), and many terrestrial and marine ecoregions are still poorly represented. Targeted expansion of protected area networks is needed to include these key areas on the land, and especially the seas. More than 17% of the land and 10% of the sea will need to be protected to meet this element of the target.
- **Effective management (Chapter 4):** There is good evidence that effectively managed PAs conserve biodiversity and habitats, on land and sea. However, by 2013, only 29% of the area of nationally designated PAs had been assessed for Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME). Furthermore, only a few studies have specifically assessed biodiversity outcomes from well-managed PAs, and despite some best practice examples, results on how management inputs relate to conservation delivery are still equivocal. More management effectiveness assessments and more focus on measuring biodiversity and social outcomes is needed to address this element of this target.

- **Equitable management (Chapter 5):** There is no global indicator for measuring equity in PAs. Governance types can provide information on enabling conditions for equity but not on equity itself. Although the full suite of governance types that promote governance diversity and quality are being increasingly recognised, this aspect of PAs remains highly unmeasured and under-reported. In 2014, half the area of PAs for which a governance type is reported are governed by governments and only 11% by other governance arrangements. There are few published assessments of governance quality.
- **Well-connected (Chapter 7):** Available evidence for the outcomes of corridors indicates they have a positive conservation benefit. Despite a growing number of large connectivity conservation projects around the world in recent years, there is still no agreed standardised method to measure connectivity at a global level, and we have little knowledge of the level of connectivity between conservation areas across the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- **Other effective area-based conservation measures (Chapter 8):** There are many site-based conservation measures that contribute towards biodiversity conservation. The definition and value of “other effective area-based conservation measures” need to be clarified so that the contribution of these areas to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 can be understood.
- **Protected areas in the wider landscape and seascape (Chapter 9):** PAs will not work as isolated elements in human-dominated landscapes; they need to be considered and integrated into all sectors of society, especially development plans. In 2014, 92% of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity had developed National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). However, the level of integration of PAs into national planning has not yet been assessed globally.
- **Finally, the numerous benefits that PAs deliver for people and nature need to be recognised** as part of the proven and cost-effective natural solution they offer for addressing many global threats, including water security, food security, climate change mitigation, disaster risk reduction and combating desertification.

Quick guide to this report

Chapter	Relevant element of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11
1	Background
2	“... 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas...”
3	“...especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services...”
4	“...effectively managed...”
5	“...equitably managed...”
6	“...ecologically representative...”
7	“...well connected systems...”
8	“...other effective area-based conservation measures...”

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