

UNDER STRICT EMBARGO

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Protected Planet Report 2020: The Facts and Figures

*The Protected Planet Report 2020 is the final report card on the progress made on **Aichi Target 11**, – the global 10-year target on protected and conserved areas which aimed to bring important benefits to both biodiversity and people by 2020. The report also identifies crucial opportunities for further improving the protected and conserved area network under the next set of global nature targets.*

Aichi Target 11: “By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, 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 landscapes and seascapes.”

By the numbers

On protected and conserved area coverage:

16.64%: terrestrial surface of the planet (22.5 million km², rising from 20.2 million km² in 2010) of land and inland waters within documented protected and conserved areas. Coverage by protected areas alone is 15.66%.

- **17% or more:** Portion of land and inland waters within protected and conserved areas worldwide if all data were available, including places managed by indigenous peoples, local communities and private entities.

7.74%: Overall reported marine coverage worldwide (**28.1 million km²**, rising from just 9 million km² in 2010), short of the 10% coverage target set in 2010 for achievement by 2020 (though data is unavailable for all protected and conserved areas. Also, an area of 8.8 million km² is committed or otherwise planned for protection at the start of 2021, which will increase the coverage once designated.)

- **18.01%:** Portion of marine areas within national boundaries that is protected, a dramatic increase in recent years.
- **1.18%:** Portion of marine areas outside national boundaries that is protected.

The previous (2018) Protected Planet Report concluded that more needed to be done to meet the quality elements of Aichi Target 11. The new report shows great progress on quantity, but that the quality of the protected and conserved area network requires renewed focus.

On protecting areas important for biodiversity:

65.5%: Terrestrial and marine Key Biodiversity Areas now partially or fully covered by protected and conserved areas.

- **20.2%:** Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas fully covered by protected and conserved areas by the end of 2020
- **33.8%:** Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas entirely lacking coverage by protected and conserved areas by the end of 2020
- **24.2%:** Marine Key Biodiversity Areas fully covered by protected and conserved areas by the end of 2020
- **33.9%:** Marine Key Biodiversity Areas entirely lacking coverage by protected and conserved areas by the end of 2020

62.6%: Across countries, this is the average proportion of Key Biodiversity Areas that are fully or partially covered by protected and conserved areas.

Success Story: Algeria recently documented conserved areas that cover three previously unprotected Key Biodiversity Areas.

On protecting the full range of the world's ecosystems:

The network of protected and conserved areas has become more representative of the world's ecosystem types since 2010. **44.5%** of the **821** terrestrial ecoregions meet the 17% coverage target, and **47.4%** of the **232** marine ecoregions meet the 10% target.

Nevertheless:

- **55.5%:** ecosystem types (ecoregions) on land are not yet covered by protected and conserved areas to the 17% target threshold.
- **52.6%** marine ecosystem types (ecoregions) are not yet covered by protected and conserved areas to the 10% target threshold.
- **10.8%:** Broad ecological regions of the open ocean lying mostly beyond national jurisdiction that meet the 10% coverage target for protection.

Success Story: Systematic Conservation Planning has informed the declaration of Tun Mustapha Park in Malaysia and the zoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in Australia.

On ensuring protected and conserved areas are geographically connected:

Protected and conserved areas that are connected to each other on the ground and in the water enable animals and other species to travel, increasing resilience to climate change and protecting the ecological processes essential to all life on Earth.

7.84%: portion of the world's terrestrial surface that is both protected and connected, increased since 2018 but short of the almost 17% of land which is now under protection.

Ways to assess marine connectivity are still being developed.

On effective management:

18.29%: the portion of the area covered by protected areas where management effectiveness assessments have been conducted (and many likely do not meet standards for full effectiveness).

59: Protected and conserved areas meeting the criteria for the IUCN Green List, the global standard for effective and equitable area-based conservation. The Green List Standard measures the performance of protected and conserved areas in terms of governance, management and conservation outcomes.

On protected and conserved area equity:

The conservation efforts of indigenous peoples, local communities and private individuals and organisations are undervalued and under-reported, despite the extensive contributions of these groups.

25-33%: existing estimates of portion of the world's land owned or governed by indigenous peoples and local communities, with the majority in good ecological condition.

There needs to be greater recognition of their conservation role of these areas, with improved reporting of protected and conserved areas with their custodians' consent.

Success story: In Oceania, as across much of the world, indigenous peoples and local communities are leaders in conservation. Most protected and conserved areas in Oceania are territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities.

It is challenging to monitor the equitable governance of protected and conserved areas. Indicators and reporting need to improve over the next decade, to ensure that local people share fairly in the benefits from protected and conserved areas and are not disproportionately affected by any negative impacts. This includes enabling the equitable participation of women and other marginalised groups in decision making.

Success story: In the Matengo territory, Tanzania, an area of mountain ridge *ntambo*, steep slopes and open forest, the Sengu governing authority oversees a traditional cultivation technique, *ngolo*. This controls soil erosion, restores soil fertility and conserves the forest while allowing for livelihood improvement through the cultivation of coffee.

Looking ahead to the new set of global nature targets due to be agreed under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework later this year, the Protected Planet Report highlights key opportunities based on lessons from the last 10 years:

- As well as designating new protected areas, there is vast potential in recognising more protected and conserved areas through accounting for the existing efforts of indigenous peoples, local communities, and private individuals and organisations. This includes supporting these areas in ways deemed appropriate by their custodians, recognising their rights and responsibilities.
- Particular efforts are needed to expand marine protected and conserved areas beyond coastal waters, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- New protected and conserved areas can be more effective if they are designated where they will complement the existing network by enhancing connectivity, ecological representation, and/or coverage of areas important for biodiversity and nature's contributions to people.
- It is important to scale up conservation even in places without large areas of intact biodiversity. In such places, actions like focusing on numerous small but well-connected protected and conserved areas or achieving ecological representation through transboundary and regional cooperation are key.
- There is a significant need to measurably improve equity in management and benefits of protected and conserved areas over the next decade.
- More data are needed to monitor how effective protected and conserved areas are in achieving positive change for nature.

Protected and conserved areas have the potential to provide havens for biodiversity and to deliver multiple benefits for people, including as a key tool to sustain actions under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The report notes that to succeed in tackling the global nature crisis, an effective and equitable protected and conserved area network must be

complemented by broader actions to address the drivers of biodiversity loss, including climate change, wildlife and timber trafficking, and corruption.

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