



## Quick guide to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Protected areas increased and improved

**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.**

Well-governed and effectively managed protected areas are a proven method for safeguarding both habitats and populations of species and for delivering important ecosystem services. Particular emphasis is needed to protect critical ecosystems such as tropical coral reefs, sea-grass beds, deepwater cold coral reefs, seamounts, tropical forests, peat lands, freshwater ecosystems and coastal wetlands. Additionally, there is a need for increased attention to the representativity, connectivity and management effectiveness of protected areas.

### Explanation of the Target

To meet the target several conditions need to be met: The area conserved should:

- **Increase** – Globally, this should be to 17% for terrestrial (including inland water) areas and 10% for marine areas. National targets may vary from this, as justified (see the guiding questions below);
- **Include areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services**, such as areas high in species richness or threatened species, threatened biomes and habitats, areas with particularly important habitats (key biodiversity areas, high conservation value areas, important plant areas, sensitive marine areas etc.) and areas which are important for the continued provision of ecosystem services (such as areas important for water supply, erosion control, sacred sites, etc);
- **Be ecologically representative** – Protected area systems should contain adequate samples of the full range of existing ecosystems and ecological processes, including at least 10% of each ecoregion within the country;
- **Be effectively and equitably managed** with planning measures in place to ensure ecological integrity and the protection of species, habitats and ecosystem processes, with the full participation of indigenous and local communities, and such that costs and benefits of the areas are fairly shared.
- **Be well-connected** to the wider landscape or seascape using corridors and ecological networks to allow connectivity, adaptation to climate change, and the application of the ecosystem approach.

The areas can include not only strict protected areas but also areas that allow sustainable use consistent with the protection of species, habitats and ecosystem processes. In addition to state-run areas, indigenous and community conserved areas as well as private areas may be included in the total area provided the other conditions are met. Other effective area-based conservation measures may also include restrictions on activities that impact on biodiversity, which would allow for the safeguarding of sites in areas beyond national jurisdiction in a manner consistent with the jurisdictional scope of the Convention as contained in Article 4.

### Implications for setting national targets

Currently, some 13 per cent of terrestrial areas and 6 per cent of coastal areas are protected, while very little of the open oceans are protected. Therefore reaching the proposed target implies a modest increase in terrestrial protected areas globally, with an increased focus on representativity, connectivity and management effectiveness, together with major efforts to expand marine protected areas. Some countries have already surpassed the global % value and therefore will be able to achieve targets higher than the global average. Indeed, this will be necessary to reach the global target. For most of these countries, however, the focus for terrestrial areas is likely to be on the need for improved management effectiveness.



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## Aichi Biodiversity Target 11

Countries may wish to prioritize the protection of habitats of which relatively little remains and where continued loss would result in the total loss of the habitat type as well as the protection of habitats which are undergoing rapid rates of decline.

### Guiding questions for setting national targets

- **What is the current extent of protected areas on land and in marine areas, (1) overall, and (2) by ecoregion?** Do these figures include effective indigenous and community conserved areas?
- **What areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services are not currently protected?** What areas are under-represented (Gap analysis)? Which habitats are declining the quickest? Which habitats have little left? Consider the areas that need to be protected from local, national and global perspectives.
- **How effective are existing protected areas? How can management effectiveness be improved?** Are indigenous and local communities involved in protected areas management?
- **What are the opportunities and constraints to expanding protected areas, generally and by eco-region?** How may these justify higher or lower figures for the national target than for the global target? What are the potential ecological, economic, and social costs and benefits of additional protected areas and how could these be shared?
- **Who are the stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities, that may be affected?** How can they be involved and their needs addressed? What are the trade-offs to consider?
- **What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?** How can additional funds be raised? What are possible funding sources?

Note that, given the particular national circumstances, national targets may be more specific and more precise than the global target. Further national targets should be ambitious but realistic and be supportive of the Strategic Plan by moving beyond business as usual.

### Actions and milestones

Actions taken to achieve this target should be guided by the Convention's Programme of Work on protected areas. Additional guidance is provided in decisions XI/18 and X/31 which suggest the following steps:

- (1) Institutionalize management effectiveness assessment towards assessing 60% of the total areas by 2015 and ensure that the results of the assessments are implemented;
- (2) Completion of ecological gap analysis for identifying "ecologically representative areas (including unprotected important bird areas, key biodiversity areas, etc) and implement the result;
- (3) Integration of Protected areas into wider land and seascapes to show case mainstreaming of biodiversity with other sectors and ecosystem based approaches to climate change adaptation and leading to mitigation through carbon sequestration;
- (4) Recognition of indigenous and community conserved areas including through acknowledgement in national legislation or other effective means formal inclusion in the national systems and practicing of various governance types;
- (5) Development and implementation of sustainable finance plans for protected area systems;

### Possible indicators

- Trends in extent of marine protected areas, coverage of key biodiversity areas and management effectiveness
- Trends in protected area condition and/or management effectiveness including more equitable management
- Trends in representative coverage of protected areas and other area based approaches, including sites of particular importance for biodiversity, and of terrestrial, marine and inland water systems
- Trends in the connectivity of protected and other area based approaches integrated into land- and sea- scapes
- Trends in the delivery of ecosystem services and equitable benefits from protected areas

### Resources

- Programme of work on Protected Areas: [www.cbd.int/protected](http://www.cbd.int/protected)
- Programme of work on Protected Areas e-learning modules: [www.cbd.int/protected/e-learning/](http://www.cbd.int/protected/e-learning/)

