Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: MONGOLIA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GLOSSARY

AZEs   Alliance for Zero Extinction sites
CEPF   Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
EEZ   Exclusive Economic Zone
GCF   Green Climate Fund
GD-PAME   Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness
GEF   Global Environment Facility
IBA   Important Bird and Biodiversity Area
ICCAs   Indigenous and Community Conserved Area Area (may also be referred to as territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities or "territories of life")
IPLC   Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
KBA   Key Biodiversity Area
NBSAP   National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
OECM   Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures
PA   Protected Area
PAME   Protected Area Management Effectiveness
PPA   Privately Protected Area
ProtConn   Protected Connected land indicator
SOC   Soil Organic Carbon
TEOW   Terrestrial Ecosystems of the World
WDPA   World Database on Protected Areas
WD-OECM   World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures

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This country dossier is compiled by the UNDP and SCBD from publicly available information. It is prepared, within the overall work of the Global Partnership on Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, for the purpose of attracting the attention of the Party concerned and other national stakeholders to facilitate the verification, correcting, and updating of country data. The statistics might differ from those reported officially by the country due to differences in methodologies and datasets used to assess protected area coverage and differences in the base maps used to measure terrestrial and marine area of a country or territory. Furthermore, the suggestions from the UNDP and SCBD are based on analyses of global datasets, which may not necessarily be representative of national policy or criteria used at the national level. The analyses are also subject to the limits inherent in global indicators (precision, reliability, underlying assumptions, etc.). Therefore, they provide useful information but cannot replace analyses at a national level nor constitute a future benchmark for national policy or decision-making.

The preparation of this dossier was generously supported by: the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GMbH*; the European Commission; the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and the Government of Japan (Japan Biodiversity Fund). The dossier does not necessarily reflect their views.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document provides information on the coverage of protected areas (PAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), as currently reported in global databases (the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM)). It also includes details on the status of the other qualifying elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 based on this data. These statistics might differ from those reported officially by countries due to difference in methodologies and datasets used to assess protected area coverage, differences in the base maps used to measure terrestrial and marine area of a country or territory, or if global datasets differ from the criteria and indicators used at the national level. This dossier also provides a summary of commitments made under Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, and a summary of potential opportunities regarding elements of the target for future planning.

The dossier has been developed in consultation with the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), which manages the WDPA, WD-OECM and Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME). Parties to the CBD are requested to contact protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org with any updates to the information in these databases.

Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Elements: Current status and opportunities for action

Coverage
- **Status:** as of May 2021, terrestrial coverage in Mongolia is 310,015.5 km² (19.8%).

- **Opportunities for action:** opportunities for the near-term include updating the WDPA with any unreported PAs, and the recognizing and reporting OECMs to the WD-OECM. In the future, focus on relatively intact areas, while addressing the elements in the following sections, could be considered if planning new PAs or OECMs.

Ecological Representativeness
- **Status:** Mongolia contains 17 terrestrial ecoregions: the mean protected coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 39.2%; all ecoregions have at least partial coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Mongolia to increase protection in terrestrial ecoregions that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs, and to focus on effective management for those that already have adequate coverage.

Areas Important for Biodiversity
- **Status:** Mongolia has 68 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): the mean protected coverage of KBAs by reported PAs and OECMs is 46.9%, while 30 KBAs have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Mongolia to increase protection of KBAs that have lower levels of coverage by PAs and OECMs; priority could be given to those with no current coverage.

Areas Important for Ecosystem Services

- **Status:** coverage of areas important for ecosystem services: In Mongolia, 34.5% of aboveground biomass carbon, 23.2% of belowground biomass carbon and 20.2% of soil organic carbon is covered by PAs and OECMs.

- **Opportunities for action:** for carbon, there is opportunity for Mongolia to increase PA and OECM coverage in terrestrial areas with high carbon stocks. Protecting areas with high carbon stocks secures the benefits of carbon sequestration in the area.

- For water, there is opportunity to increase the area of the water catchment under protection by PAs and OECMs, or in cases where there is high levels of protection, focus on effective management for these areas. Protecting the current area of forested land and potentially reforesting would have benefits for improving water security.

Connectivity and Integration

- **Status:** coverage of protected-connected lands is 6.1%.

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for a targeted increase in connecting PAs or OECMs and to focus on PA and OECM management for enhancing and maintaining connectivity. Improving connectivity increases the effectiveness of PAs and OECMs and reduces the impacts of fragmentation.

- As well, a range of suggested steps for enhancing and supporting integration are included in the voluntary guidance on the integration of PAs and OECMs into the wider land- and seascapes and mainstreaming across sectors to contribute, inter alia, to the SDGs (Annex I of COP Decision 14/8).

Governance Diversity

- **Status:** the most common governance type(s) for reported PAs in Mongolia is: 91.7% under Government (Government-delegated management).

- **Opportunities for action:** explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation, for Mongolia this could relate to shared governance, etc.

- There is also opportunity for Mongolia to complete governance and equity assessments, to establish baselines and identify relevant actions for improvement. As well, a range of suggested actions are included in the voluntary guidance on effective governance models for management of protected areas, including equity (Annex II of COP Decision 14/8).

Protected Area Management Effectiveness

- **Status:** 67.2% of terrestrial PAs have completed Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessments reported.

- **Opportunities for action:** the 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has** been met for terrestrial PAs. Further increasing this percentage could be beneficial overall for understanding how well protected areas are being managed.

- There is also opportunity to implement the results of completed PAME evaluations, to improve the quality of management for existing PAs and OECMs (e.g. through adaptive management and information sharing, increasing the number of sites reporting 'sound management') and to increase reporting of biodiversity outcomes in PAs and OECMs.

INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan from 18-29 October 2010. The vision of the Strategic Plan is one of "Living in harmony with nature" where *"By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people"* (CBD, 2010). In addition to this vision, the Strategic Plan is composed of 20 targets, under five strategic goals. Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 states that *"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."*

With the conclusion of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in 2020, Target 11 on area-based conservation has seen success in the expansion of the global network of protected areas (PA) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). The negotiation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and its future targets provide an essential opportunity to further improve the coverage of PAs and OECMs, to improve other aspects of area-based conservation, to accelerate progress on biodiversity conservation more broadly, while also addressing climate change, and the Sustainable Development Goals. This next set of global biodiversity targets are to be adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. These new targets must aim to build upon lessons learned from the last decade of progress to deliver transformative change for the benefit of nature and people, to realize the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity have developed the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossiers, which provide countries with an overview of the status of Target 11 elements, opportunities for action, and a summary of commitments made by Parties over the last decade. Each dossier can support countries in assessing their progress on key elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and identifying opportunities to prioritize new protected areas and OECMs.

This dossier provides an overview of area-based conservation in Mongolia. Section I of the dossier presents data on the current status of Mongolia's PAs and OECMs. The data presented in Section I relates to each element of Target 11. Section I also presents the PA and OECM coverage for two critical ecosystem services: water security and carbon stocks. In addition, the dossier presents potential opportunities for action for Mongolia, in relation to each Target 11 element. The analyses present options for improving Mongolia's area-based conservation network to achieve enhanced protection and benefits for livelihoods and climate change. Section II presents details on Mongolia's existing PA and OECM commitments as a summary of existing efforts towards achieving Target 11. This gives focus not only to national policy and actions but also voluntary commitments to the UN.

Furthermore, where data is available, this dossier provides information on potential OECMs, Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs; also, often referred to as territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities or "territories of life") and Privately Protected Areas (PPAs) and the potential contribution they will have in achieving the post-2020 targets.

The information on PAs and OECMs presented here is derived from the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM). These databases are joint products of UNEP and IUCN, managed by UNEP-WCMC, and can be viewed and downloaded at www.protectedplanet.net. Parties are encouraged to provide data on their PAs and OECMs to UNEP-WCMC for incorporation into the databases (see e.g., Decisions 10/31 and 14/8). The significant efforts of Parties in updating their data in the build up to the publication of the Protected Planet Report 2020 (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2021) were greatly appreciated. UNEP-WCMC welcomes further updates, following the data standards described here (www.wcmc.io/WDPA_Manual), and these should be directed to protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org. The statistics presented in this dossier are derived from the May 2021 WDPA and WD-OECM releases, unless explicitly stated otherwise. Readers should consult www.protectedplanet.net for the latest coverage statistics (updated monthly).

Some data from the WDPA and WD-OECM are not made publicly available at the request of the data-provider. This affects some statistics, maps, and figures presented in this dossier. Statistics provided by UNEP-WCMC (terrestrial and marine coverage) are based upon the full dataset, including restricted data. All other statistics, maps, and figures are based upon the subset of the data that is publicly available.

Where data is less readily available, such as for potential OECMs, ICCAs and PPAs, data has also been compiled from published reports and scientific literature to provide greater awareness of these less commonly recorded aspects. These data are provided to highlight the need for comprehensive reporting on these areas to the WDPA and/or WD-OECM. Parties are invited to work with indigenous peoples, local communities and private actors to submit data under the governance of these actors, with their consent, to the WDPA and/or WD-OECM.

Overall, PAs and OECMs are essential instruments for biodiversity conservation and to sustain essential ecosystem services that support human well-being and sustainable development, including food, medicine, and water security, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The data in this dossier, therefore, aims to celebrate the current contributions of PAs and OECMs, whilst the gaps presented hope to encourage greater progress, not just for the benefit of biodiversity and the post-2020 GBF, but also to recognize the essential role of PAs and OECMs to the Sustainable Development Goals and for addressing the climate crisis.

SECTION I: CURRENT STATUS

Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 refers to both protected areas (PAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). This section provides the current status for all elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 where indicators with global data are available. Statistics for all elements are presented using data on both PAs and OECMs (where this data is available and reported in global databases like the WDPA and WD-OECM). It is recognized that statistics reported in the WPDA and WD-OECM might differ from those reported officially by countries due to differences in methodologies and datasets used to assess protected area coverage and differences in the base maps used to measure terrestrial and marine area of a country or territory. Details on UNEP-WCMC's methods for calculating PA and OECM coverage area available here. The global indicators adopted here for presenting the status of other elements of Target 11 may also differ from those in use nationally.

COVERAGE

As of May 2021, Mongolia has **107** protected areas reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). 6 UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserves are not included in the following statistics (see details on UNWP-WCMC's methods for calculating PA and OECM coverage **here**).

As of May 2021, Mongolia has **0** OECMs reported in the world database on OECMs (WD-OECM).

Current coverage for Mongolia:

- 19.8% terrestrial (101 protected areas, 310,015.5 km^2)
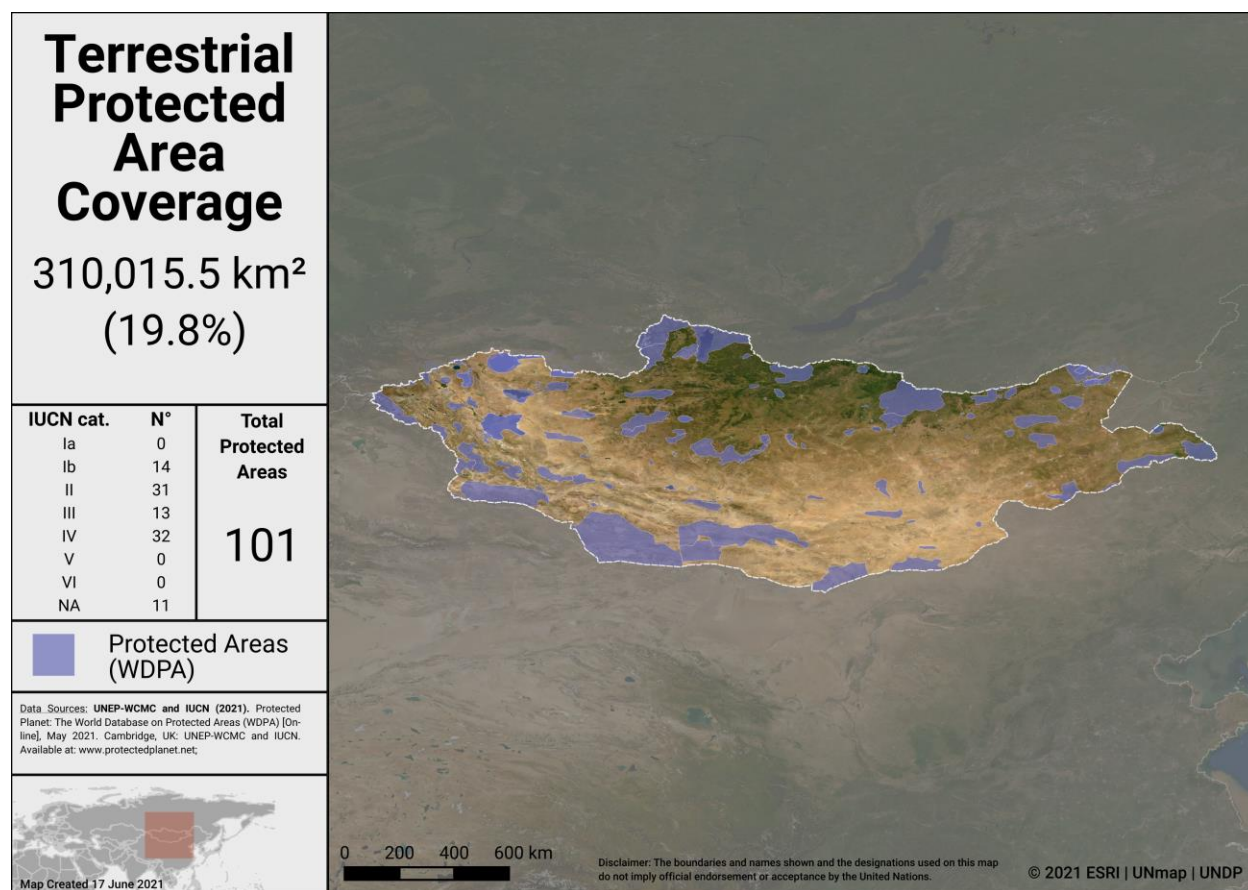
Terrestrial Protected Areas in Mongolia

Potential OECMs

There are currently no potential OECM examples for Mongolia.

Opportunities for action

Opportunities for the near-term include updating the WDPA with any unreported PAs, and the recognizing and reporting OECMs to the WD-OECM. In the future, as Mongolia considers where to add new PAs and OECMs, the map below identifies areas in Mongolia where intact areas are not currently protected. Focus on relatively intact areas, while addressing the elements in the following sections, could be considered when planning new PAs or OECMs.
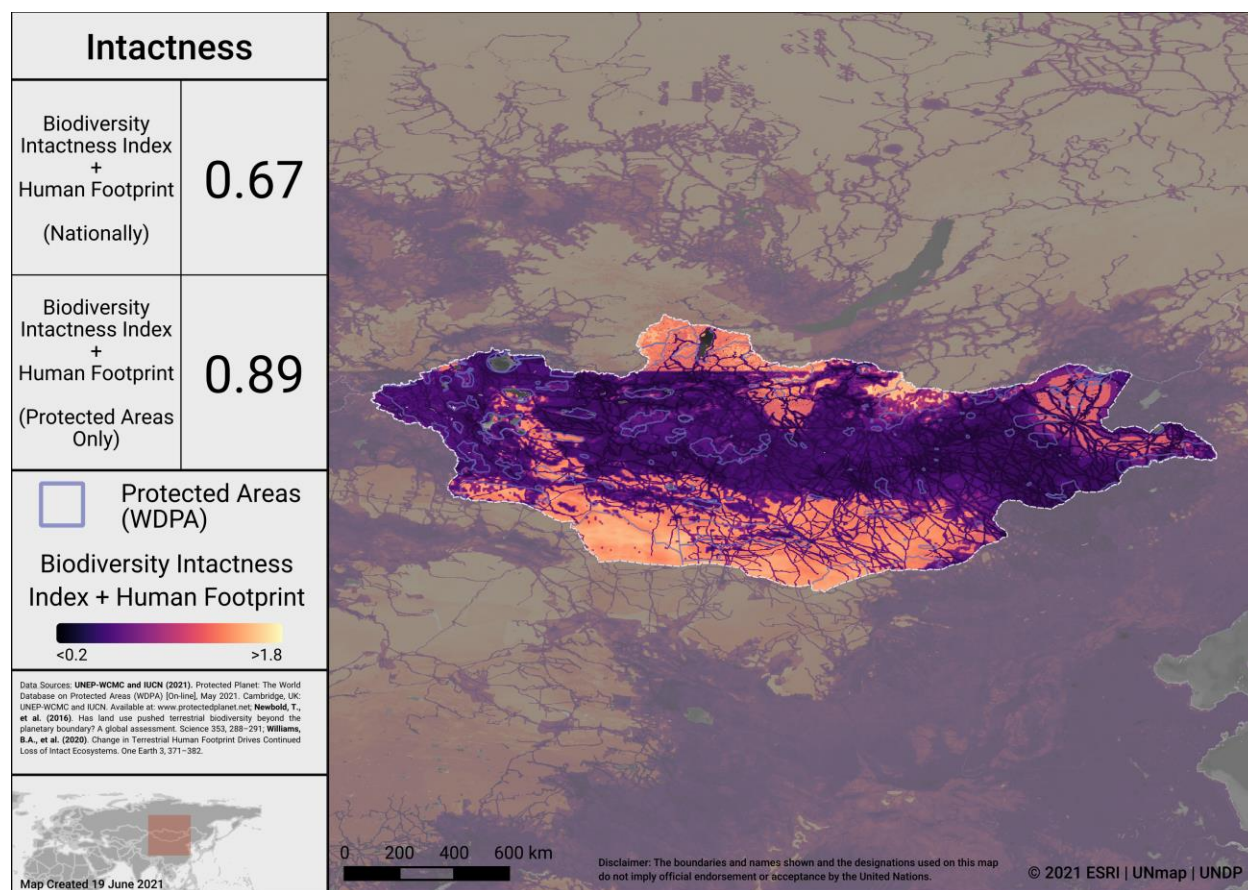
Intactness in Mongolia

To explore more on intactness visit the UN Biodiversity Lab: map.unbiodiversitylab.org.

ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS

Ecological representativeness is assessed based on the PAs and OECMs coverage of broad-scale biogeographic units. Globally, ecoregions have been described for terrestrial areas (Dinerstein et al, 2017), marine coastal and shelf ecosystems (to a depth of 200m; Spalding et al 2007) and surface pelagic waters (Spalding et al 2012).

Mongolia has 17 **terrestrial** ecoregions. Out of these:

- All 17 ecoregions have at least some coverage from PAs and OECMs.
- 12 ecoregions have at least 17% protected within the country.
- The average terrestrial coverage of ecoregions is 39.2%.

A full list of ecoregions in Mongolia is available in Annex I.
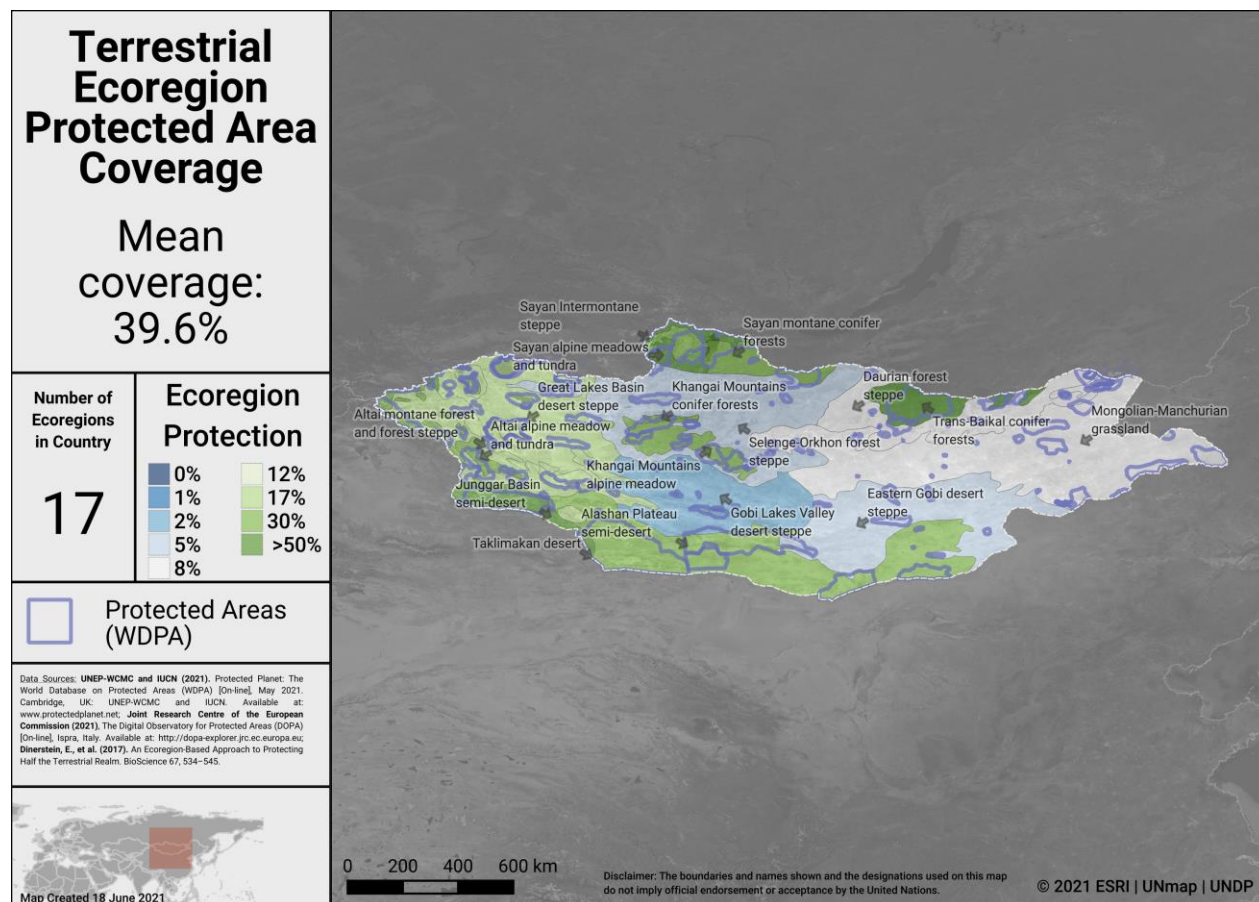
Terrestrial ecoregions in Mongolia
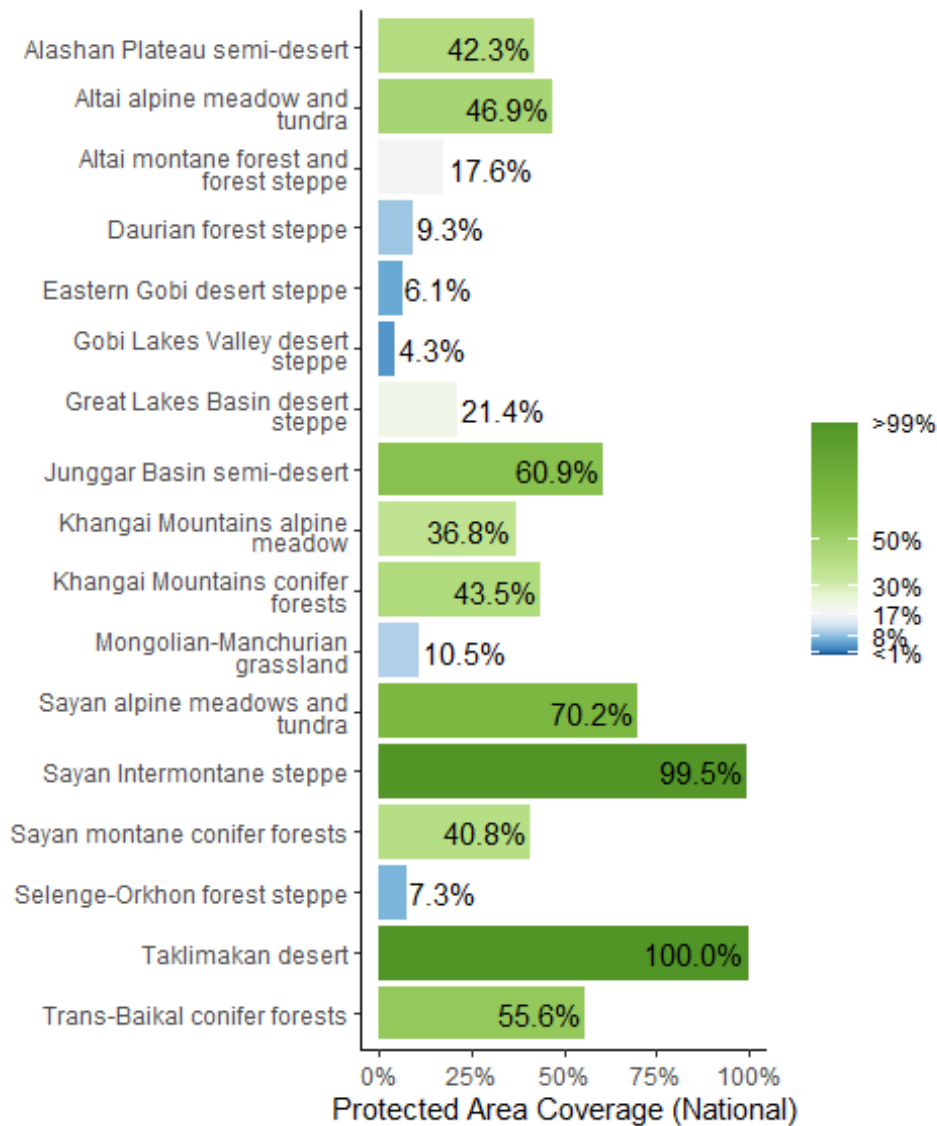
Terrestrial ecoregions of the World (TEOW) in Mongolia

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Mongolia to increase protection in terrestrial ecoregions that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs, and to focus on effective management for those that already have adequate coverage.

AREAS IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

Protected area and OECM coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) provide one proxy for assessing the conservation of areas important for biodiversity at national, regional and global scales. KBAs are sites that make significant contributions to the global persistence of biodiversity (IUCN, 2016). The KBA concept builds on four decades of efforts to identify important sites for biodiversity, including Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, and KBAs identified through Hotspot ecosystem profiles supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. Incorporating these sites, the dataset of internationally significant KBAs includes Global KBAs (sites shown to meet one or more of 11 criteria in the Global Standard for the Identification of KBAs, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and irreplaceability), Regional KBAs (sites identified using pre-existing criteria and thresholds, that do not meet the Global KBA criteria based on existing information), and KBAs whose Global/Regional status is Not yet determined, but which will be assessed against the global KBA criteria within 8-12 years. Regional KBAs are often of critical international policy relevance (e.g., in EU legislation and under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands), and many are likely to qualify as Global KBAs in future once assessed for their biodiversity importance for other taxonomic groups and ecosystems. To date, nearly 16,000 KBAs have identified globally, and information on each of these is presented in the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas: www.keybiodiversityareas.org.

Mongolia has 70 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) [**68 KBAs** included in analysis]

- Mean percent coverage of all KBAs by PAs and OECMs in Mongolia is **46.9%**.
- **15** KBAs have full (>98%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **23** KBAs have partial coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **30** KBAs have no (<2%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- *2 KBAs lack spatial data to allow PA and OECM coverage to be determined*
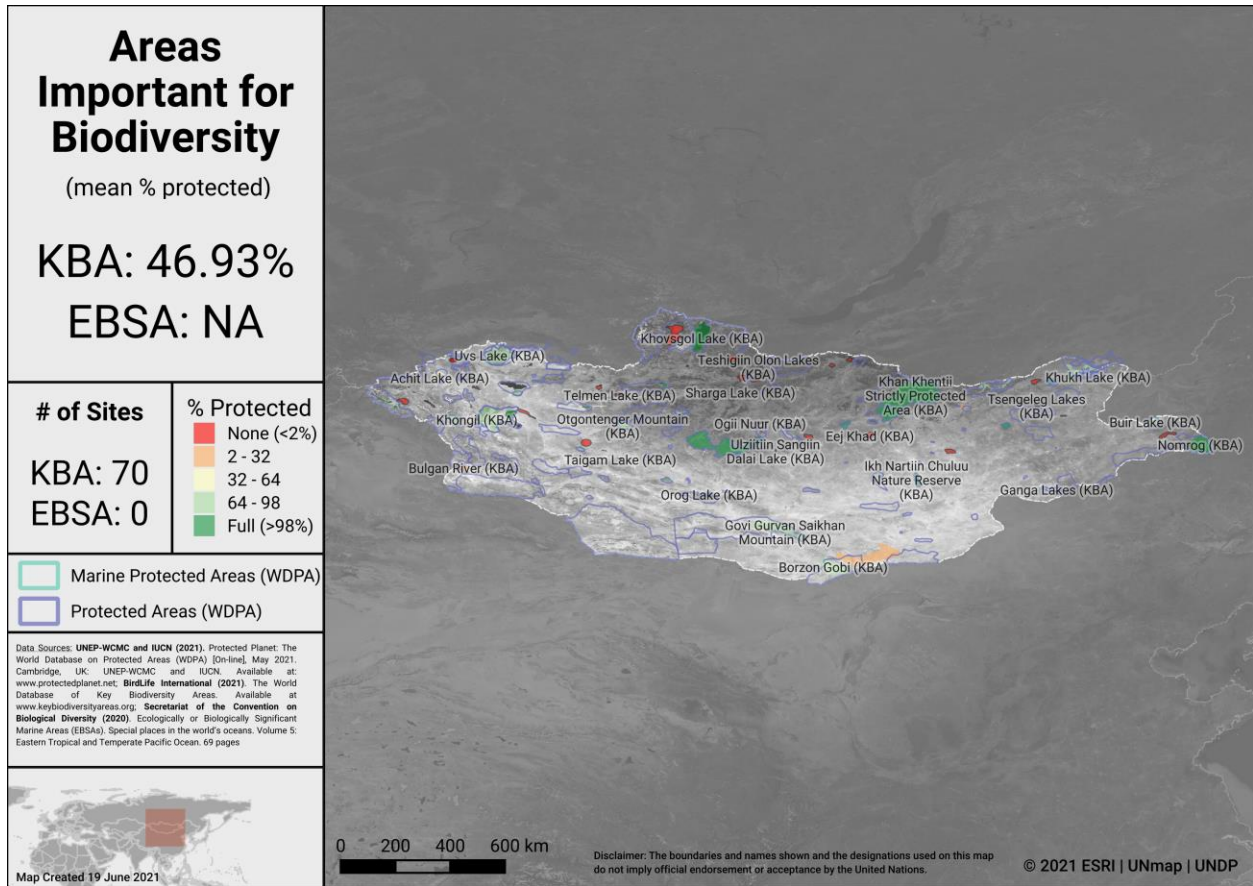
Areas Important for Biodiversity in Mongolia
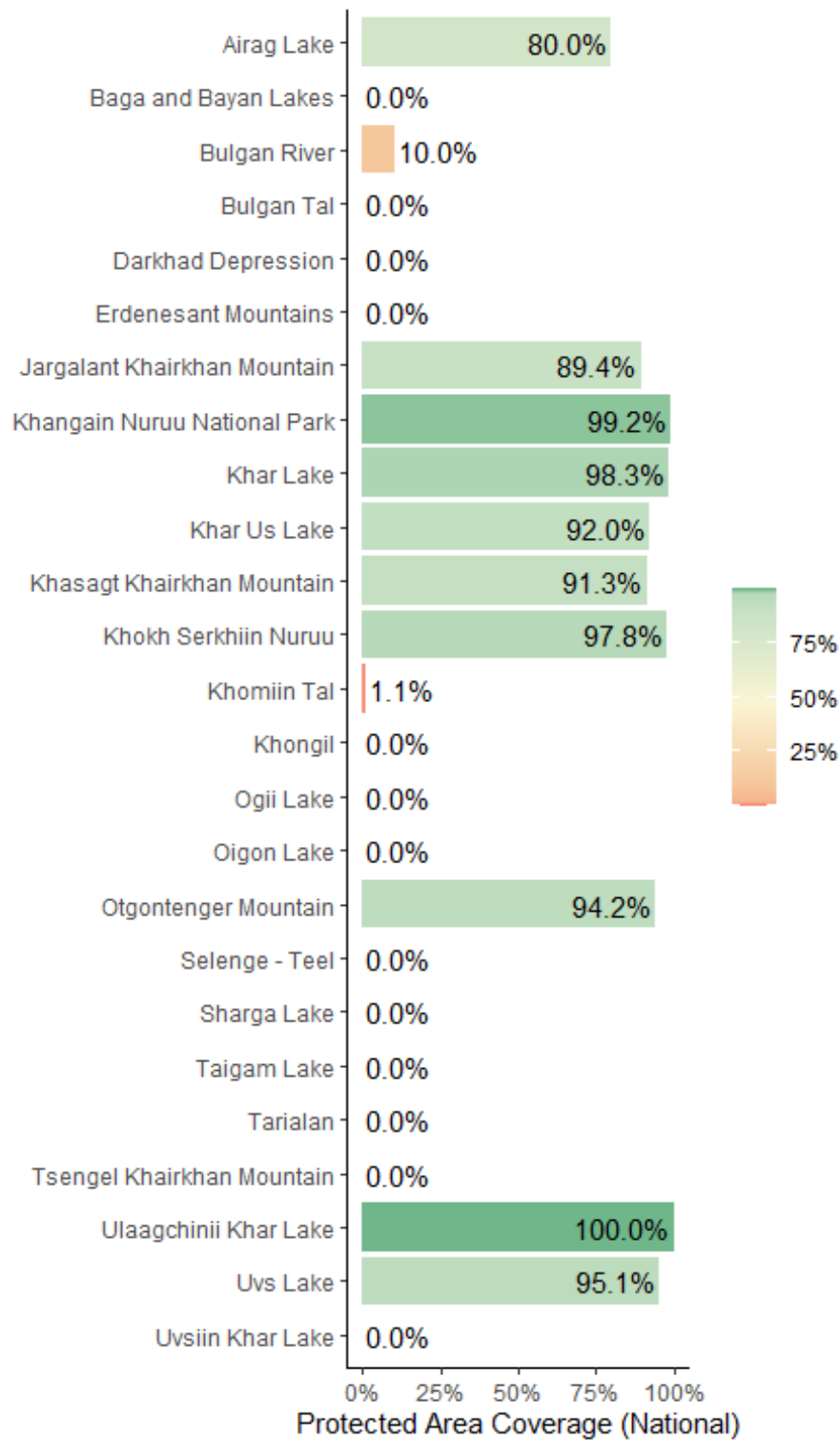
Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Mongolia
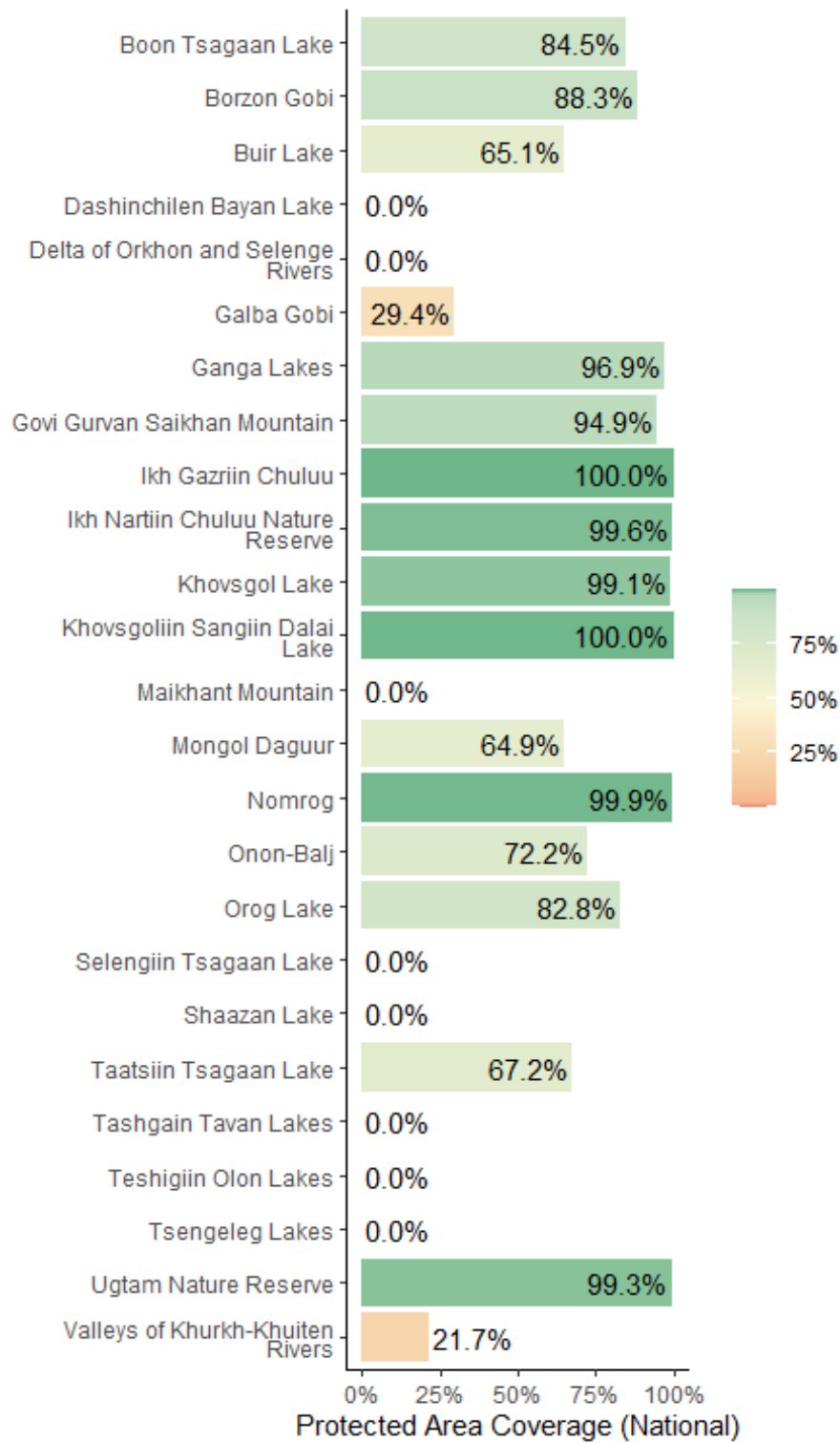
Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Mongolia (continued)
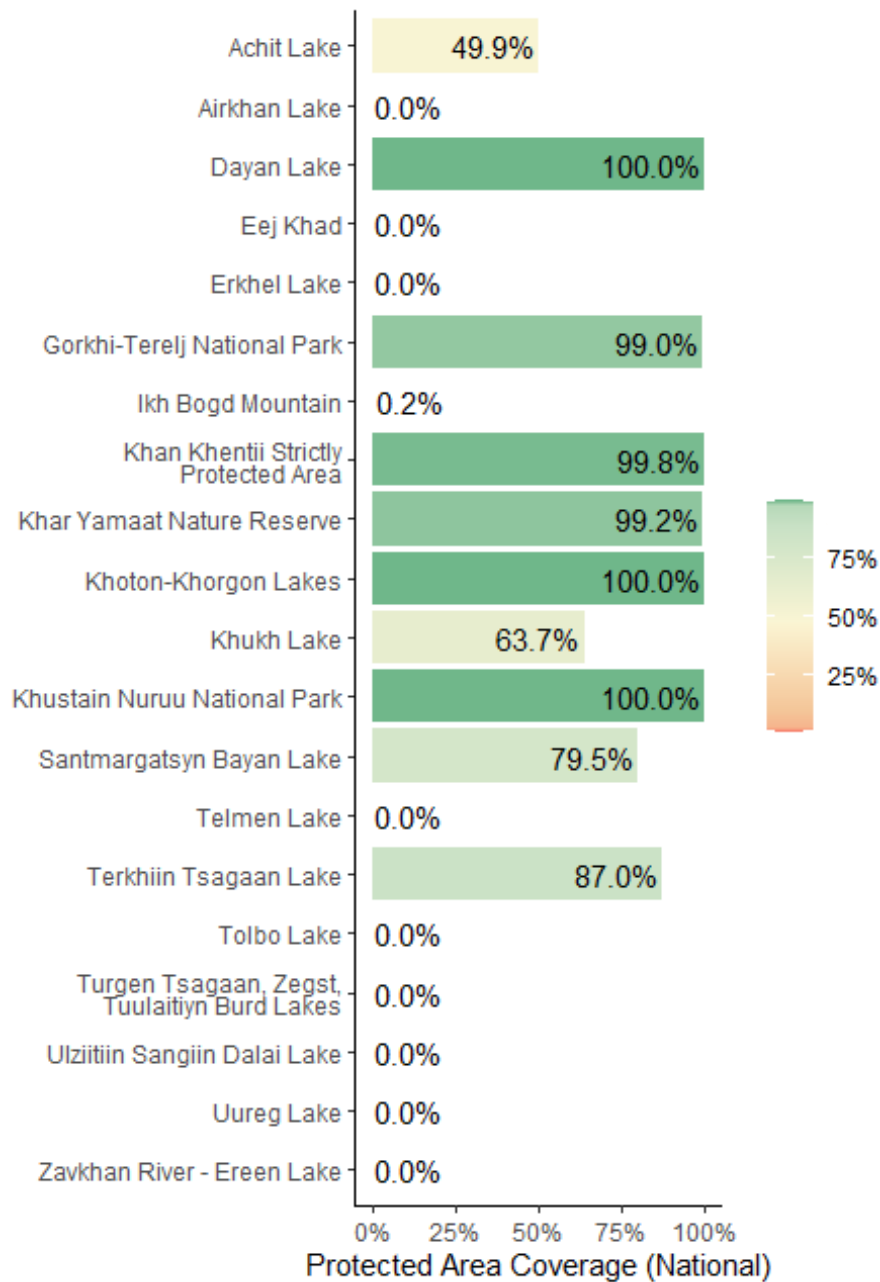
Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Mongolia (continued)

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Mongolia to increase protection of KBAs that have lower levels of coverage by PAs and OECMs; priority could be given to those with no current coverage.

AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

There is no single indicator identified for assessing the conservation of areas important for ecosystem services. For simplicity, two services with available global datasets are assessed here (carbon and water). In future, other critical ecosystem services could be explored.

Carbon

Data for biomass carbon comes from temporally consistent and harmonized global maps of aboveground biomass and belowground biomass carbon density (at a 300-m spatial resolution); the maps integrate land-cover specific, remotely sensed data, and land-cover specific empirical models (see Spawn et al., 2020 for details on methodology). The Global Soil Organic Carbon Map present an estimation of SOC stock from 0 to 30 cm (see FAO, 2017 for details).

The map below presents the total carbon stocks in Mongolia and the percent of carbon in protected areas. The total carbon stocks is 415.2 Tg C from aboveground biomass (AGB), with 34.5% in protected areas; 529.1 Tg C from below ground biomass (BGB), with 23.2% in protected areas and 8,146.7 Tg C from soil organic carbon (SOC), with 20.2% in protected areas.
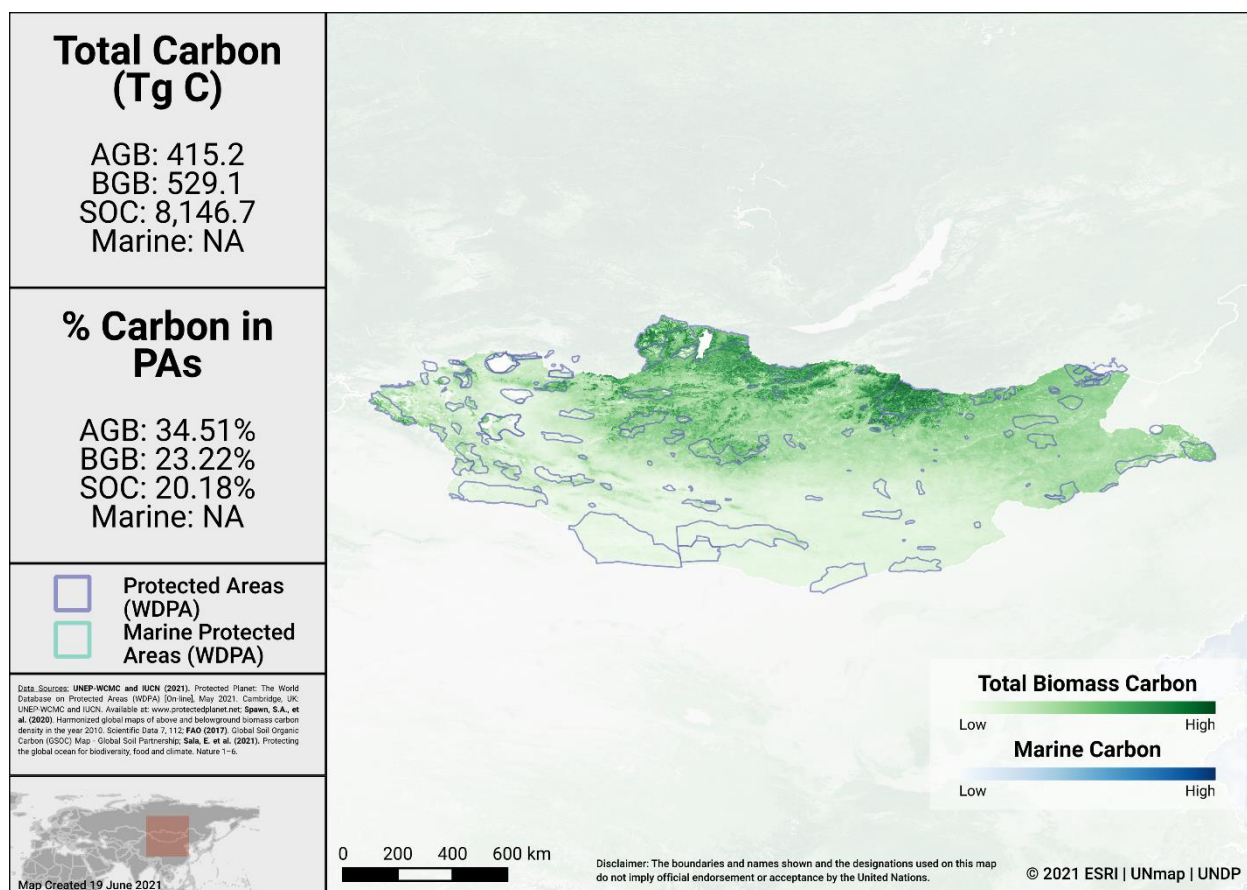
Carbon Stocks in Mongolia

Water

Information on the water sources for 534 cities is available via the City Water Map (CWM) and provides details on the catchment area of the watershed that supplies these cities (see McDonald et al., 2014 for details on methodology).

Forests support stormwater management and clean water availability, especially for large urban populations. Research that has examined the role of forests for city drinking water supplies shows that of the world's 105 largest cities, more than 30% (33 cities) rely heavily on the local protected forests, which provide ecosystem services that underpin local drinking water availability and quality (Dudley & Stolton, 2003).

Drinking water supplies for cities in Mongolia may similarly depend on protected forest areas within and around water catchments The map below shows the percentage forest cover and the forest loss from 2000-2020 in the most heavily populated water catchment of Mongolia. Intact catchments can support more consistent water supply and improved water quality.
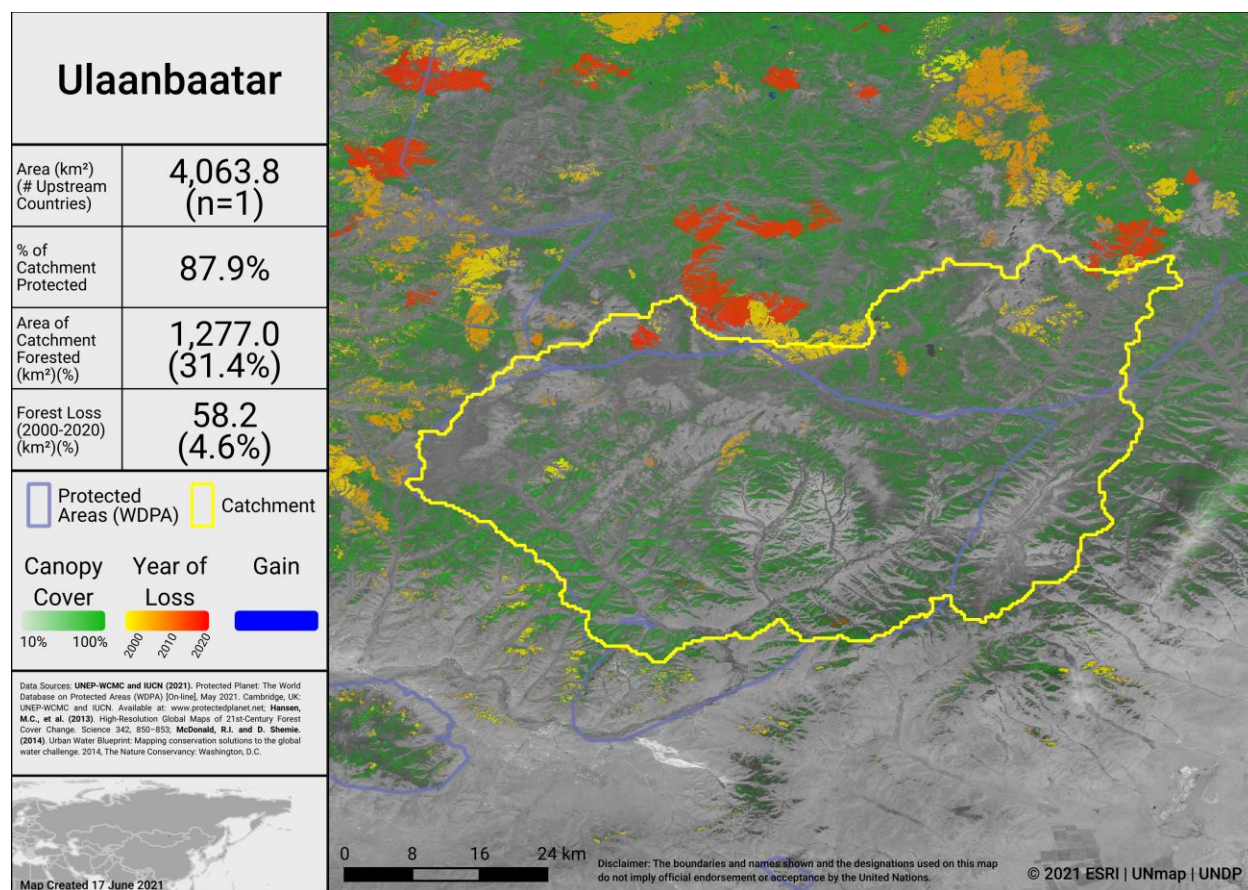
Water supply area for the city of Ulaanbaatar

Opportunities for action

For carbon, there is opportunity for Mongolia to increase PA and OECM coverage in terrestrial areas with high carbon stocks, as identified in the map above. Protecting areas with high carbon stocks secures the benefits of carbon sequestration in the area.

For water, there is opportunity to increase the area of the water catchment under protection by PAs and OECMs, or in cases where there is high levels of protection, focus on effective management for these areas. Protecting the current area of forested land and potentially reforesting would have benefits for improving water security.

CONNECTIVITY & INTEGRATION

Two global indicators, the Protected Connected land indicator (ProtConn; EC-JRC, 2021; Saura et al., 2018) and the PARC-Connectedness indicator (CSIRO, 2019), have been proposed for assessing the terrestrial connectivity of PA and OECM networks (to date there is no global indicator for assessing marine connectivity).

Protected Connected Land Indicator (Prot-Conn)

As of January 2021, as reported in the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission's Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) (JRC, 2021), the coverage of protected-connected lands (a measure of the connectivity of terrestrial protected area networks, assessed using the ProtConn indicator) in Mongolia was 6.1%.

PARC-Connectedness Index

In 2019, as assessed using the PARC-Connectedness Index (values ranging from 0-1, indicating low to high connectivity), connectivity in Mongolia is 0.44. This represents an increase from 0.42 in 2010.

Corridor case studies

There are no corridor case studies available for Mongolia (but see general details on conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors in Hilty et al 2020).

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for a targeted designation of PAs or OECMs in strategic locations for connectivity and to focus on PA and OECM management for enhancing and maintaining connectivity. Improving connectivity increases the effectiveness of PAs and OECMs and reduces the impacts of fragmentation.

As well, a range of suggested steps for enhancing and supporting integration are included in the voluntary guidance on the integration of PAs and OECMs into the wider land- and seascapes and mainstreaming across sectors to contribute, inter alia, to the SDGs (Annex I of COP Decision 14/8).

GOVERNANCE DIVERSITY

There is a lack of comprehensive global data on governance quality and equity in PAs and OECMs. Here, we provide data on the diversity of governance types for reported PAs and OECMs.

As of May 2021, PAs in Mongolia reported in the WDPA have the following governance types:

- 91.7% are governed by **governments**
    - 0.0% by federal or national ministry or agency
    - 0.0% by sub-national ministry or agency
    - 91.7% by government-delegated management
- 0.0% are under **shared** governance
- 0.0% are under **private** governance
- 0.0% are under **IPLC** governance
    - 0.0% by Indigenous Peoples
    - 0.0% by local communities
- 8.3% **do not** report a governance type
    - (All of which are international designations)

OECMs

As of May 2021, there are **0** OECMs in Mongolia reported in the WD-OECM, therefore there is no data available on OECM governance types.

Privately Protected Areas (PPAs)

From Gloss et al. (2019), a UNDP study on PPA data for Mongolia:

- No information available.
- PPAs **are not** formally defined in PA legislation.
- PPAs **are not** directly identified in Mongolia's recent NBSAP.
- PPAs **are not** included as part of the current PA network.

See full details in Mongolia's country profile and summarized in Annex II.

Territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (ICCAs)

There is currently no data available on ICCAs for Mongolia (see Kothari et al., 2012 and the ICCA Registry for further details).

Other Indigenous lands

There is currently no data available on lands managed and/or controlled by Indigenous Peoples in Mongolia (see Garnett et al 2018 for details).

Opportunities for action

Explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation, for Mongolia this could relate to shared governance, etc.

There is also opportunity for Mongolia to complete governance and equity assessments, to establish baselines and identify relevant actions for improvement. Examples of existing tools and methodologies include: Governance Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas (Franks & Brooker, 2018), Social Assessment of Protected Areas (Franks et al 2018), and Site-level assessment of governance and equity (IIED, 2020). As well, a range of suggested actions are included in the voluntary guidance on effective governance models for management of protected areas, including equity (Annex II of COP Decision 14/8).

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

This section provides information on the coverage of PAs and OECMs with completed protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessments as reported in the global database (GD-PAME). The proportion of terrestrial and marine PAs with completed PAME assessments is also calculated and compared with the 60% target agreed to in COP-10 Decision X/31. Information is also included regarding changes in forest cover nationally within PAs and OECMs.

Protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessments

As of May 2021, Mongolia has 107 PAs reported in the WDPA; of these PAs, 32 (26.7%) have management effectiveness evaluations reported in the global database on protected area management effectiveness (GD-PAME).

- 13.3% (208,433 km^2) of the terrestrial area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
    - 67.2% of the area of terrestrial PAs have completed evaluations.

The 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has** been met for terrestrial PAs.

As of May 2021, there are 0 OECMs in Mongolia reported in the WD-OECM and no information available on the management effectiveness of potential OECMs.

Changes in forest cover in protected areas and OECMs

Forested areas in Mongolia cover approximately 1.4% of the country, an area of 21,394.4 km^2. Approximately 46.3% (9,899.6 km^2) of this is within the protected area estate of Mongolia. Over the period 2000-2020 loss of forest cover amounted to over 4,319.9 km^2, or 0.3% of the country (20.2% of forest area), of which 2,635.6 km^2 (61.0% of forest loss) occurred within protected areas. The map below shows how forest cover has changed in Mongolia from 2000-2020 both inside and outside of PAs. This can indicate how effective PAs are in reducing forest cover loss.

Forest Cover

Total Forested Area (km²)	21,394.4
% of Country Forested	1.4%
% of Forested Areas Protected	46.3%
Forest Loss (2000-2020) (km²)(%)	4,319.9 (20.2%)
Outside PAs (2000-2020) (km²)(%)	1,684.3 (39.0%)
Inside PAs (2000-2021) (km²)(%)	2,635.6 (61.0%)

☐ Protected Areas (WDPA)

Forest Canopy Cover: 10% – 100%

Forest Year of Loss: 2000 – 2010 – 2020

Data Sources: **UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2021)**. Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) [On-line], May 2021. Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN. Available at: www.protectedplanet.net; **Hansen, M.C., et al. (2013)**. High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change. Science 342, 850–853; **Dubois, G., et al (2018)**: Digital Observatory For Protected Areas. European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC): http://data.europa.eu/89h/jrc-dopa-maps-and-datasets.

Map Created 19 June 2021

0 200 400 600 km

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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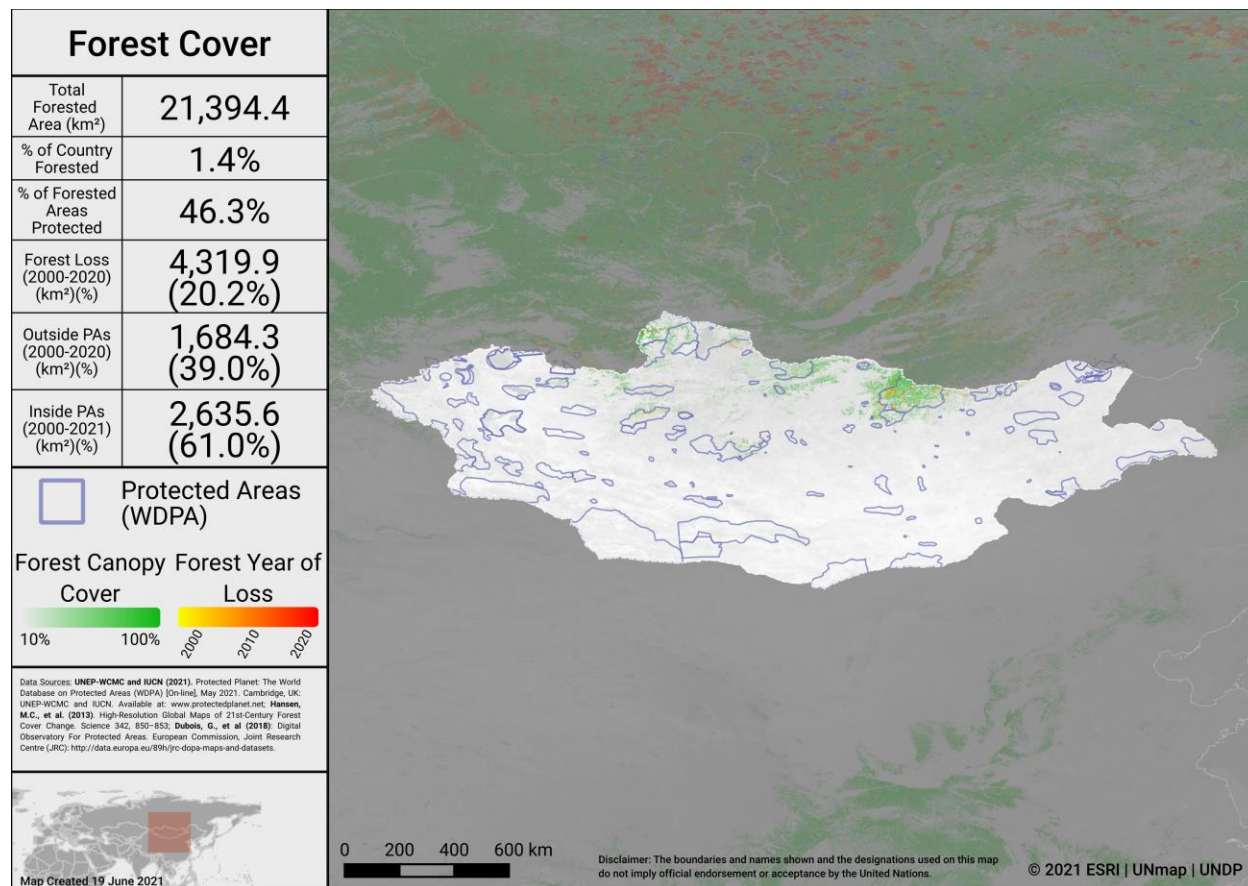
Forest Cover and Forest Loss in Mongolia

Opportunities for action

The 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has** been met for terrestrial PAs. Further increasing this percentage would be beneficial overall for understanding how well protected areas are being managed.

There is also opportunity to implement the results of completed PAME evaluations, to improve the quality of management for existing PAs and OECMs (e.g. through adaptive management and information sharing, increasing the number of sites reporting 'sound management') and to increase reporting of biodiversity outcomes in PAs and OECMs.

SECTION II: EXISTING PROTECTED AREA AND OECM COMMITMENTS

PRIORITY ACTIONS FROM 2015-2016 REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

National priority actions for Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 were provided by Parties following a series of regional workshops in 2015 and 2016. The Capacity-building workshop for East Asia and Southeast Asia on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 took place 15 - 18 September 2015 in Yanji, Jilin Province, China. Progress towards the quantitative targets for marine and terrestrial coverage has been assessed based on data reported in the WDPA and WD-OECM as of 2021. For more information, see the workshop report at: https://www.cbd.int/meetings/

Summary from the workshop:

Priority actions and identified opportunities, if completed as proposed, will increase coverage of terrestrial areas by **51,247 km²**. Bringing with them benefits for the other qualifying elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.

The following actions were identified during the workshops:

Terrestrial coverage: expanding protected areas to 25% by 2020.

Governance and Equity: Research into the possibility of using PES as a direct incentive into environmental protection.

Integration into the wider landscape: Amarin Khel.

No actions were identified for the following elements of Target 11: Ecological Representation; Areas Important for biodiversity and ecosystem services; Connectivity; Management effectiveness

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

Mongolia has submitted an NBSAP during the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (most recent NBSAP is available at: https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/search/).

This NBSAP **did** include a quantitative target for **terrestrial** PAs or OECMs.

Goal 5: At least 30% of each representative of main ecosystems, all patch and vulnerable to climate change ecosystems are included in to the National Protected Area network and their management is improved.

Objective 10 - By 2025, the PA network is expanded with inclusion of at least 30% of representative ecosystems.

- As of May 2021 (based on the WDPA/WD-OECM) has the target been met: **No (but post-2020 target date)**
- Accounting for other projects, actions and commitments, if this target is met, coverage in the country will increase **78,293 km²** by 2025 (in addition to the increases from other actions and commitments).

Actions from the NBSAP will also address other elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11:

NBSAP Action number	Action (original language from NBSAP)
23	By 2022, international cooperation with other countries to allow free migratory routes in transboundary areas for endangered and threatened animal species is improved.
27	By 2016, the legislation on sustainability of financial resources and collaborative management in PAs is established.
28	By 2020, based on evaluation on implementation of national action plan for PAs, the program is revised and a mechanism is created to ensure representativeness of ecosystems, sustainable management and financial system.
30	By 2018, an official document is in place to build capacity of PA administration staff.
31	By 2020, the infrastructure and professional capacity of PA administrations is improved.
33	By 2025, the conservation management of the transboundary PAs and those listed in the international conventions, treaties and agreements is improved.

APPROVED GEF-5, GEF-6, & GCF PROTECTED AREA PROJECTS

Approved GEF-5 and GEF-6 PA-related biodiversity projects

This includes biodiversity projects from the fifth and sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-5 and GEF-6) with a clear impact of the quantity or quality of PAs; also including some projects occurring within the wider landscapes/seascapes around PAs. Only those with a status of 'project approved' or 'concept approved' as of June 2019 were considered. The qualifying elements likely benefiting from each GEF project is assessed based on a keyword search of Project Identification Forms (PIF). Where spatial data for the proposed PAs was available, further details (based on an analysis by UNDP) regarding their impacts for ecological representation, coverage of KBAs, and coverage of areas important for carbon storage is included.

GEF ID	PA increase?	Area to be added (km^2)	Qualitative elements potentially benefitting (based on keyword search of PIFs)
4562	Yes	7,803	All except Ecosystem services and Connectivity
9389	Yes	9,400	All except Connectivity

Based on spatial data available for GEF project 1611 and 4562, benefits will arise for several elements of Target 11:

Coverage of Terrestrial Ecoregions:

- 6 Terrestrial Ecoregions will have improved coverage. These Ecoregions are: Altai montane forest and forest steppe; Daurian forest steppe; Great Lakes Basin desert steppe; Mongolian-Manchurian grassland; Sayan alpine meadows and tundra; Trans-Baikal conifer forests.
    – The average increase in coverage of Terrestrial Ecoregions will be 0.46%.

Coverage of KBAs:

- Coverage will improve for 2 KBAs.

Ecosystem services:

- 0.58 % increase in the PA coverage of soil organic carbon (SOC).
- 0.64 % increase in the PA coverage of areas important for SOC.

Approved Green Climate Fund (GCF) Protected Area-related biodiversity projects

The Green Climate Fund's investments listed as approved projects as of May 2021 were considered. The GCF supports paradigm shifts in both climate change mitigation and adaptation that may impact quality of PAs or contribute to better integration within the wider land- and seascapes around PAs. Only projects with result areas for either or both *Forest and Land Use and Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services result areas* were included.

GCF ID	Project theme	Result area	Target 11 element
FP141	Adaptation	Ecosystems and ecosystem services	Integration; areas important for biodiversity
FP154	Cross-cutting	Forest and land use	Integration

OTHER ACTIONS/COMMITMENTS

Leaders' Pledge for Nature

Mongolia **has** signed onto the Leaders' Pledge for Nature.

Political leaders participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 88 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030. By doing so, these leaders are sending a united signal to step up global ambition and encourage others to match their collective ambition for nature, climate, and people with the scale of the crisis at hand.

Mongolia's statement at the 2020 UN Biodiversity Summit mentions PAs, OECMs or corridors:

As of today, our National Protected Area Network has reached 21% of the total territory. It will be achieved: 30% by 2030.

High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

Mongolia **has** joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People.

The High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC) is an intergovernmental group, co-chaired by France and Costa Rica [currently including 65 countries and the European Commission]. Its objective is to support the adoption of a target aiming to protect 30% of the planet's land and 30% of its oceans by 2030 (30x30 target), within the future global framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB) for the protection of biodiversity, which is to be adopted at the next COP in China this autumn.

Other commitments addressing improved coverage of PAs or OECMs

The Parliament of Mongolia has approved 10 areas (5 new protected areas, 5 expansions and upgrades of management category) for national protected areas on 7 May 2020, which will increase coverage of terrestrial areas by 13,000 km^2.

ANNEX I

FULL LIST OF ECOREGIONS

Ecoregion Name	Area (km²)	% of Global Ecoregion in Country	% of Country in Ecoregion	Area Protected (km²)	% Protected in Country
Alashan Plateau semi-desert	216,938.2	32.2	13.9	91,751.4	42.3
Altai alpine meadow and tundra	25,674.9	28.4	1.6	12,038.0	46.9
Altai montane forest and forest steppe	90,342.2	63.2	5.8	15,884.9	17.6
Daurian forest steppe	94,660.6	45.2	6.0	8,817.6	9.3
Eastern Gobi desert steppe	178,498.5	63.2	11.4	10,906.3	6.1
Gobi Lakes Valley desert steppe	139,708.3	100.0	8.9	5,979.2	4.3
Great Lakes Basin desert steppe	135,917.2	86.2	8.7	29,083.7	21.4
Junggar Basin semi-desert	33,739.8	11.1	2.2	20,561.8	60.9
Khangai Mountains alpine meadow	37,167.6	100.0	2.4	13,691.8	36.8
Khangai Mountains conifer forests	2,902.0	100.0	0.2	1,263.5	43.5
Mongolian-Manchurian grassland	308,544.6	34.7	19.7	32,462.5	10.5
Sayan alpine meadows and tundra	21,756.5	26.8	1.4	15,267.8	70.2
Sayan Intermontane steppe	289.7	0.9	0.0	288.2	99.5
Sayan montane conifer forests	38,604.0	10.8	2.5	15,751.2	40.8

Ecoregion Name	Area (km^2)	% of Global Ecoregion in Country	% of Country in Ecoregion	Area Protected (km^2)	% Protected in Country
Selenge-Orkhon forest steppe	202,187.1	88.5	12.9	14,771.8	7.3
Taklimakan desert	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.9	100.0
Trans-Baikal conifer forests	37,943.5	18.9	2.4	21,081.8	55.6

ANNEX II

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PPAs

- The 1992 Constitution and the 1994 Civil Code provide the overall legislative framework for land management and administration in Mongolia. The right to own property is a basic right recognized and guaranteed by the Constitution under Article 6 and Article 16. Although the Constitution provides for the private ownership of non-pastoral land, in practice all land has continued to be owned by the State.

- The 2002 Law on Allocation of Land to Mongolian Citizens for Ownership specified the process and parameters for privatization, including the maximum private lot size of 0.7 ha in Ulaanbaatar and only 0.3 ha in rural town centers. This change led to the rapid and near-total privatization of residences in Ulaanbaatar but had minimal effect on pastureland.

- The 1997 Law on Buffer Zones of Protected Area sets out restrictions for areas surrounding protected areas, of an extent determined in each case by the Protected Area Administration. The Buffer zone is then managed by a council including local citizens and staff of the Protected Areas Administration, to ensure that land-use compliments the function of the protected area.

- In addition to the national protected areas network, the Mongolian government allows land to be protected at a local scale, by districts and municipalities. These areas are governed by the Hural, or local representative body, of each soum (district) or duureg (municipal district) and have permanent status under local laws. By 2007, 911 such conservation districts had been created by local governments in this way, covering an additional 16,311,358.2 ha (10.3 percent) of Mongolia's land area.

- Land placed under a protected area contract are generally state-owned, but may be allocated to local citizens and organizations, who must abide by the management plan prohibiting actions that would harm the long term viability of the ecosystem. Some are managed by community-based organizations; others are managed by NGOs.

Case studies/best practices:

- Gulzat Initiative: 126,772 ha, located in the mountainous Altai-Sayan ecoregion, the Gulzat Local PA was protected in March of 2008, through Citizens Representative Khural Decision No. 36, an act of local government. NGOs and community members have developed and enforce hunting limits to protect the Argali Sheep, Mongolian Marmots, Black-Tailed Gazelles, living on the high-elevation range.

See additional info in country profile (http://nbsapforum.net/knowledge-base/resource/mongolia-country-profile-international-outlook-privately-protected-areas).

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