



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: UZBEKISTAN

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

GLOSSARY	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
<i>Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Elements: Current status and opportunities for action</i>	5
INTRODUCTION	8
SECTION I: CURRENT STATUS	10
<i>COVERAGE</i>	11
<i>ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS</i>	13
<i>AREAS IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY</i>	15
<i>AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES</i>	20
<i>CONNECTIVITY & INTEGRATION</i>	23
<i>GOVERNANCE DIVERSITY</i>	24
<i>PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS</i>	25
SECTION II: EXISTING PROTECTED AREA AND OECM COMMITMENTS	26
<i>PRIORITY ACTIONS FROM 2015-2016 REGIONAL WORKSHOPS</i>	26
<i>NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)</i>	27
<i>Other National commitment</i>	27
<i>APPROVED GEF-5 & GEF-6 PROTECTED AREA PROJECTS</i>	28
ANNEX I	29
<i>FULL LIST OF ECOREGIONS</i>	29
REFERENCES	30



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



4 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: UZBEKISTAN

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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.

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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. Where available, data from national statistics for the elements of Target 11 are included alongside records from these global databases. 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:** terrestrial coverage in Uzbekistan is 8.4% [as of May 2021, there was 25,976.2 km², or 5.8% reported in the WDPA].
- **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 when planning new PAs or OECMs.

Ecological Representativeness

- **Status:** Uzbekistan contains 8 terrestrial ecoregions: the mean coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 12.1%, while 1 terrestrial ecoregion has no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs (though this ecoregion covers <0.1% of the country).
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Uzbekistan to increase protection in terrestrial ecoregions that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs. Ecoregions which currently have no coverage by PAs or OECMs are key areas for action.



6 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: UZBEKISTAN

Areas Important for Biodiversity

- **Status:** Uzbekistan has 54 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): the mean protected coverage of KBAs by reported PAs and OECMs is 20.6%, while 36 KBAs have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Uzbekistan 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 Uzbekistan, 14.4% of aboveground biomass carbon, 11.4% of belowground biomass carbon and 12.7% of soil organic carbon is covered by PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** for carbon, there is opportunity for Uzbekistan 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 forested lands and potentially reforesting would have benefits for improving water security.

Connectivity and Integration

- **Status:** coverage of protected-connected lands is 2.5%.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for a general increase of 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:** 100% of nationally designated PAs are under governance by Government (Federal or national ministry or agency).
- **Opportunities for action:** 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).



7 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: UZBEKISTAN

Protected Area Management Effectiveness

- **Status:** 7.0% 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 not** been met for terrestrial PAs, therefore, there is opportunity to increase protected area management effectiveness (PAME) evaluations for terrestrial PAs to achieve the target.
- 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 Uzbekistan. Section I of the dossier presents data on the current status of Uzbekistan’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 Uzbekistan, in relation to each Target 11 element. The analyses present options for improving Uzbekistan’s area-based conservation network to achieve enhanced protection and benefits for livelihoods and climate change. Section II presents details on Uzbekistan’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

9 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: UZBEKISTAN

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](#), 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. Where available, results from national reporting are also included.



COVERAGE

As of May 2021, Uzbekistan has **36** protected areas reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). 1 UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserve is not included in the following statistics (see details on UNWP-WCMCs methods for calculating PA and OECM coverage [here](#)).

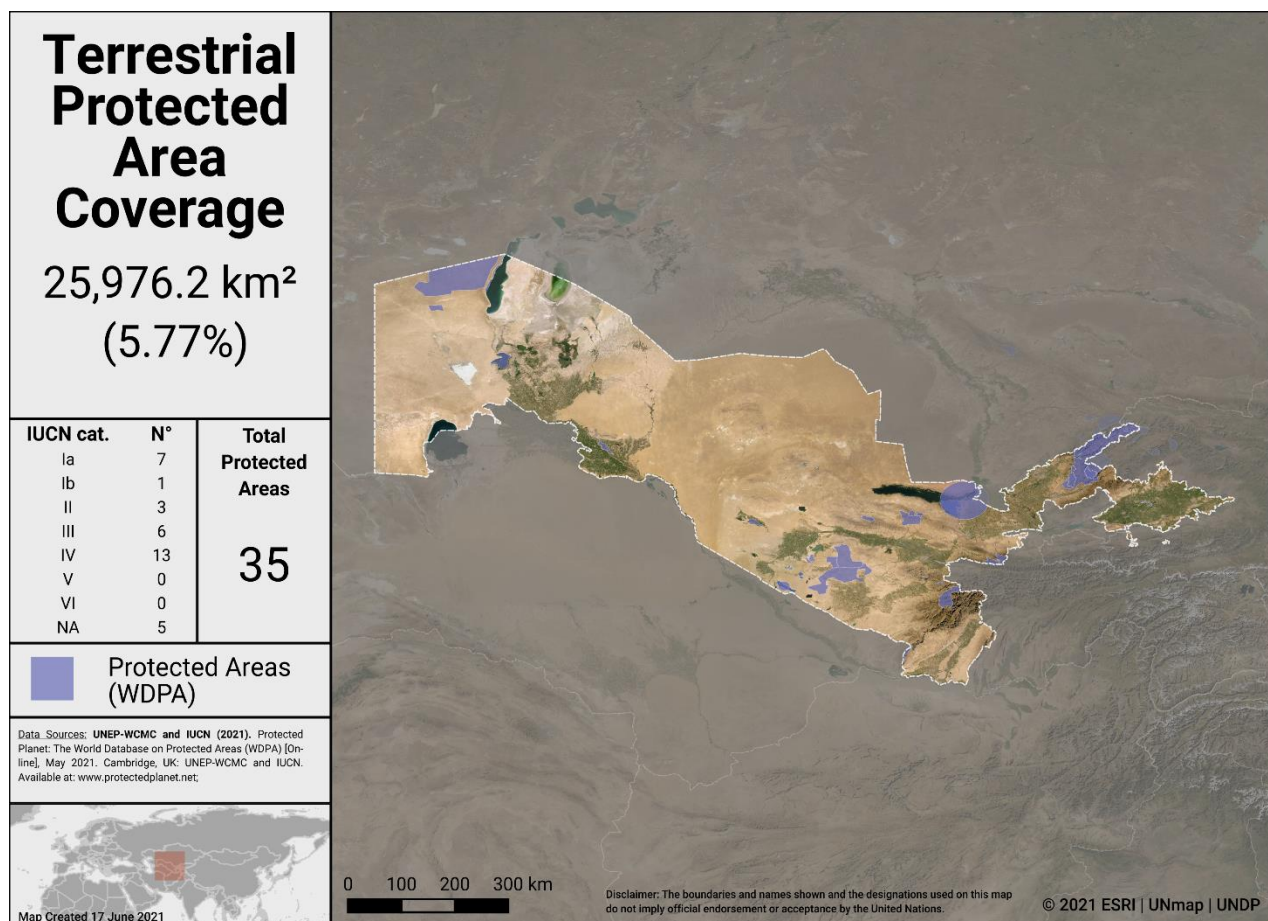
As of May 2021, Uzbekistan has **0** OECMs reported in the world database on OECMs (WD-OECM).

Current coverage for Uzbekistan as listed in the May 2021 WDPA:

- 5.8% terrestrial (35 protected areas, 25,976.2 km²)

Coverage is now **8.4%**, with the recent designation of 2 new PAs, covering **~11,900km²**

- Work is ongoing to produce shapefiles for these sites, which will then be shared for reporting to the WDPA
- These 2 new PAs will bring increases for many of the elements in the following sections



Terrestrial Protected Areas in Uzbekistan

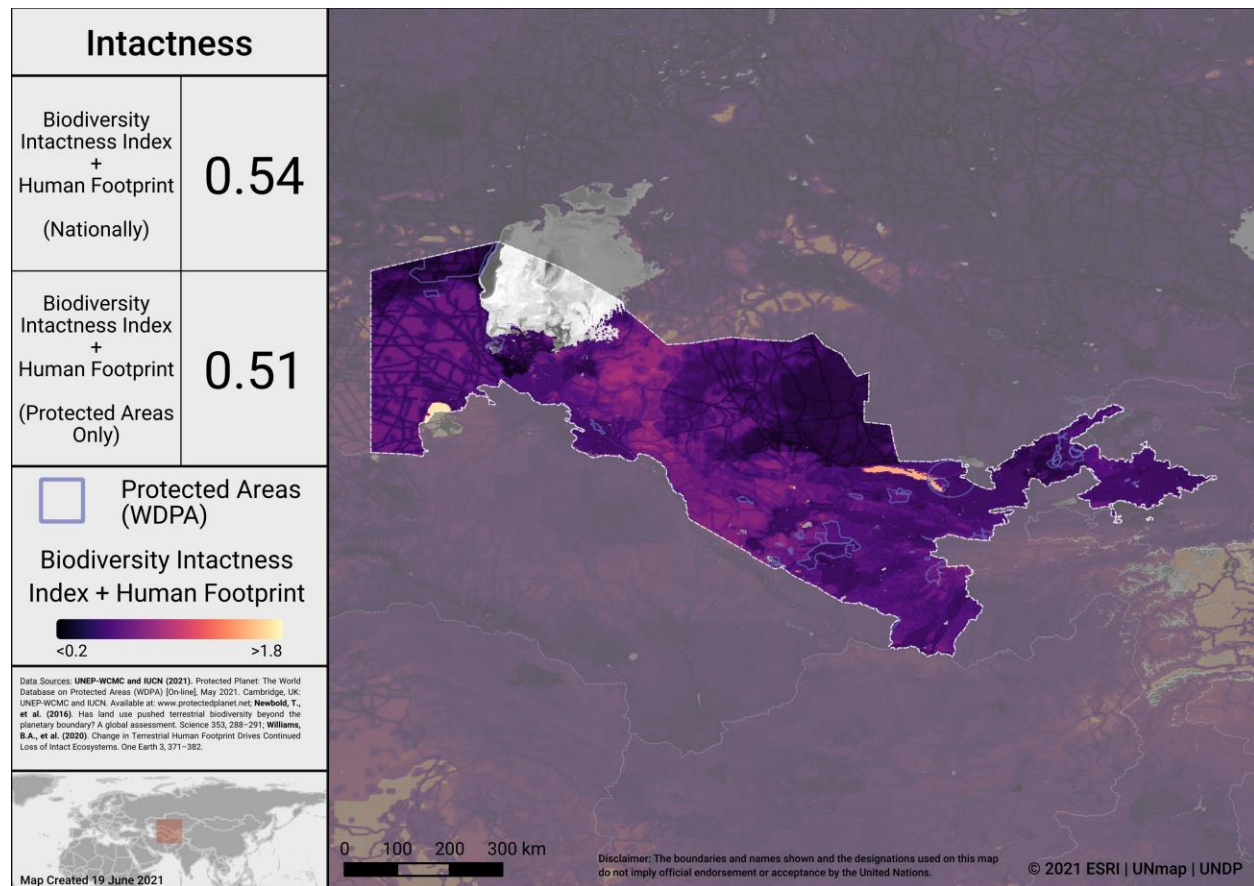
12 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: UZBEKISTAN

Potential OECMs

There are currently no potential OECM examples available for Uzbekistan (the OECM concept has not yet been applied in Uzbekistan).

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 Uzbekistan considers where to add new PAs and OECMs, the map below identifies areas in Uzbekistan 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 Uzbekistan

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

ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS

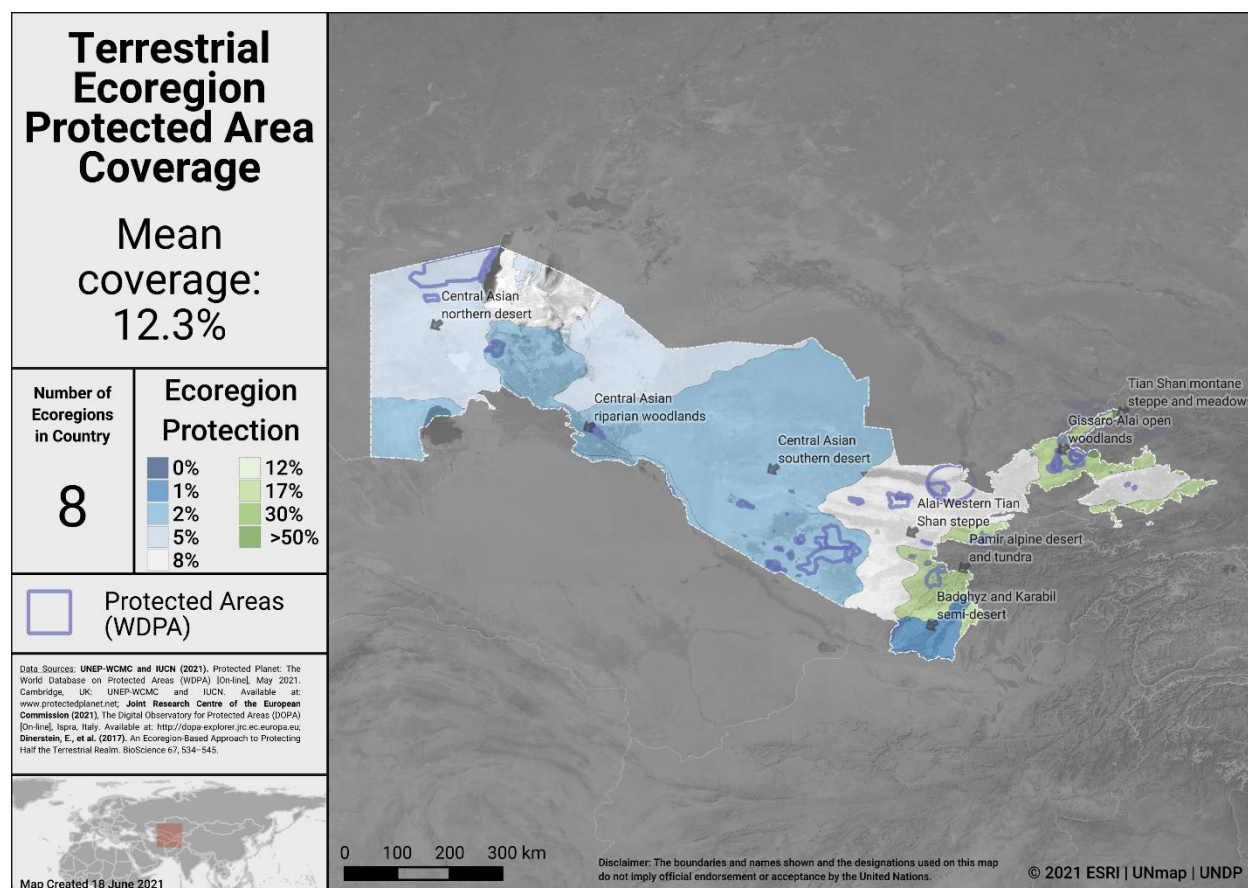
Ecological representativeness is assessed based on the PAs and OECMs coverage of broad-scale biogeographic units. Globally, ecoregions have been described for terrestrial areas (Dinerstein et al, 2017), marine coastal and shelf ecosystems (to a depth of 200m; Spalding et al 2007) and surface pelagic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

The main natural ecosystems of Uzbekistan are: highlands, mountain forests, floodplain forests, foothills and low mountains, desert and semi-deserts, wetlands

Uzbekistan has 8 **terrestrial** ecoregions. Out of these:

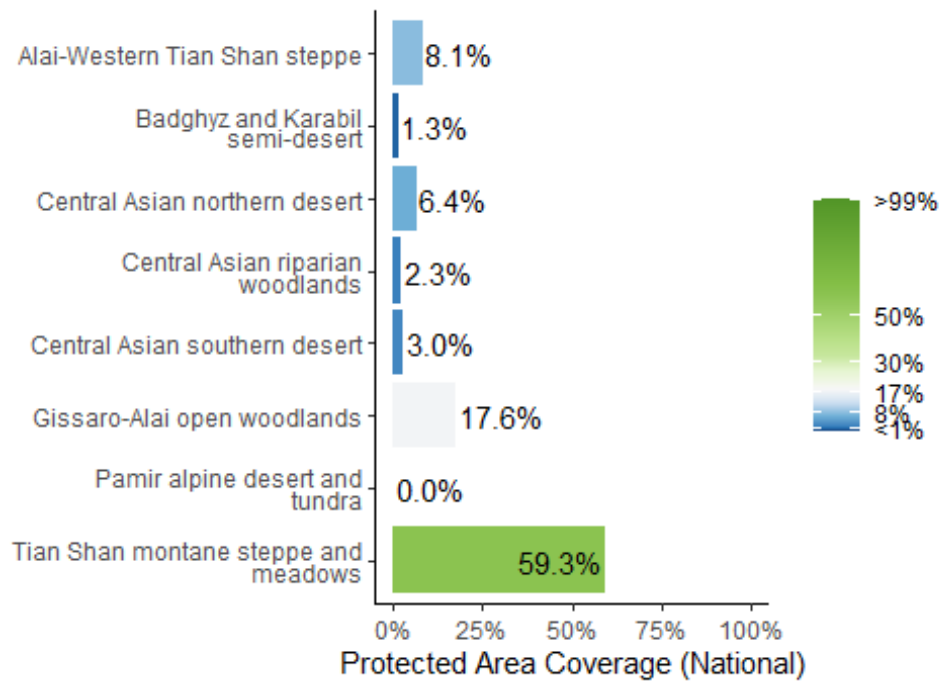
- 7 ecoregions have at least some coverage from PAs and OECMs.
 - The 1 remaining ecoregion covers <0.1% of the country
- 2 ecoregions have at least 17% protected within the country.
- The average coverage of terrestrial ecoregions is 12%.

A full list of ecoregions in Uzbekistan is available in Annex I.



Terrestrial ecoregions in Uzbekistan

14 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: UZBEKISTAN



Terrestrial ecoregions of the World (TEOW) in Uzbekistan

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Uzbekistan to increase protection in terrestrial ecoregions that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs (reporting of 2 recently designated PAs will increase ecoregion coverage). Ecoregions which currently have no coverage by PAs or OECMs are key areas for action.

AREAS IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY

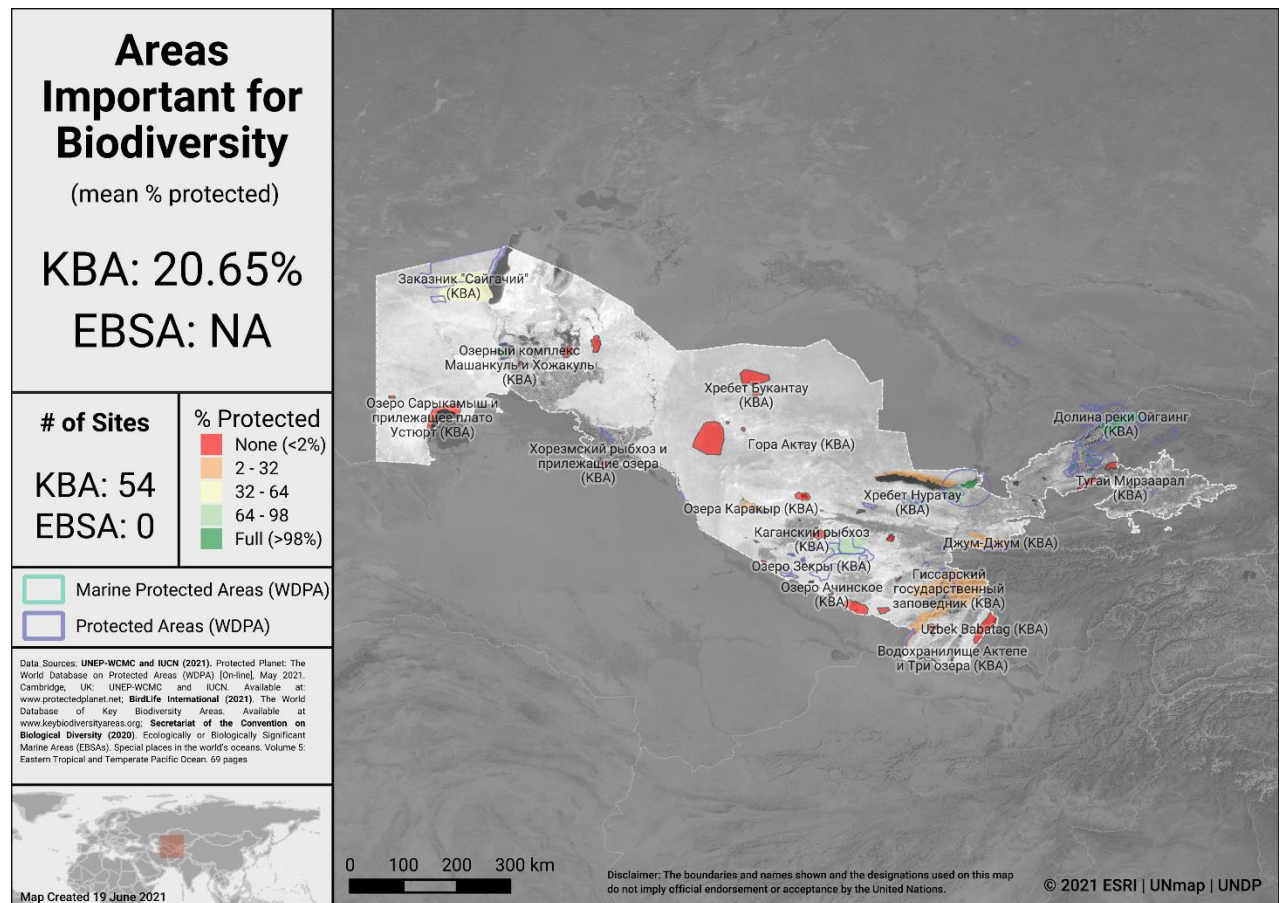
Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

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.

Uzbekistan has **54** Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

- Mean percent coverage of all KBAs by PAs and OECMs in Uzbekistan is **20.6%**.
- **5** KBAs have full (>98%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **13** KBAs have partial coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **36** KBAs have no (<2%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.

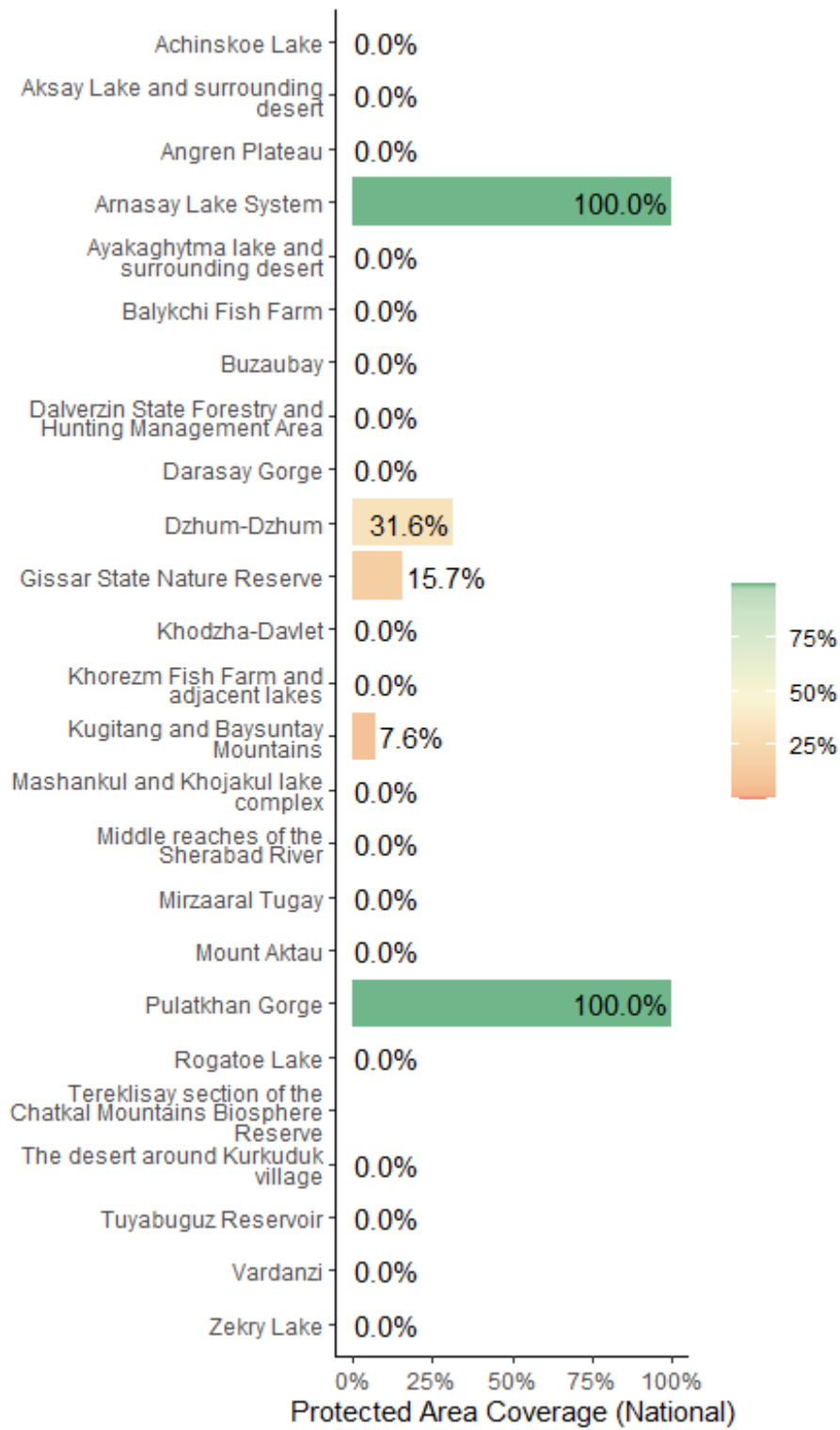




Areas Important for Biodiversity in Uzbekistan



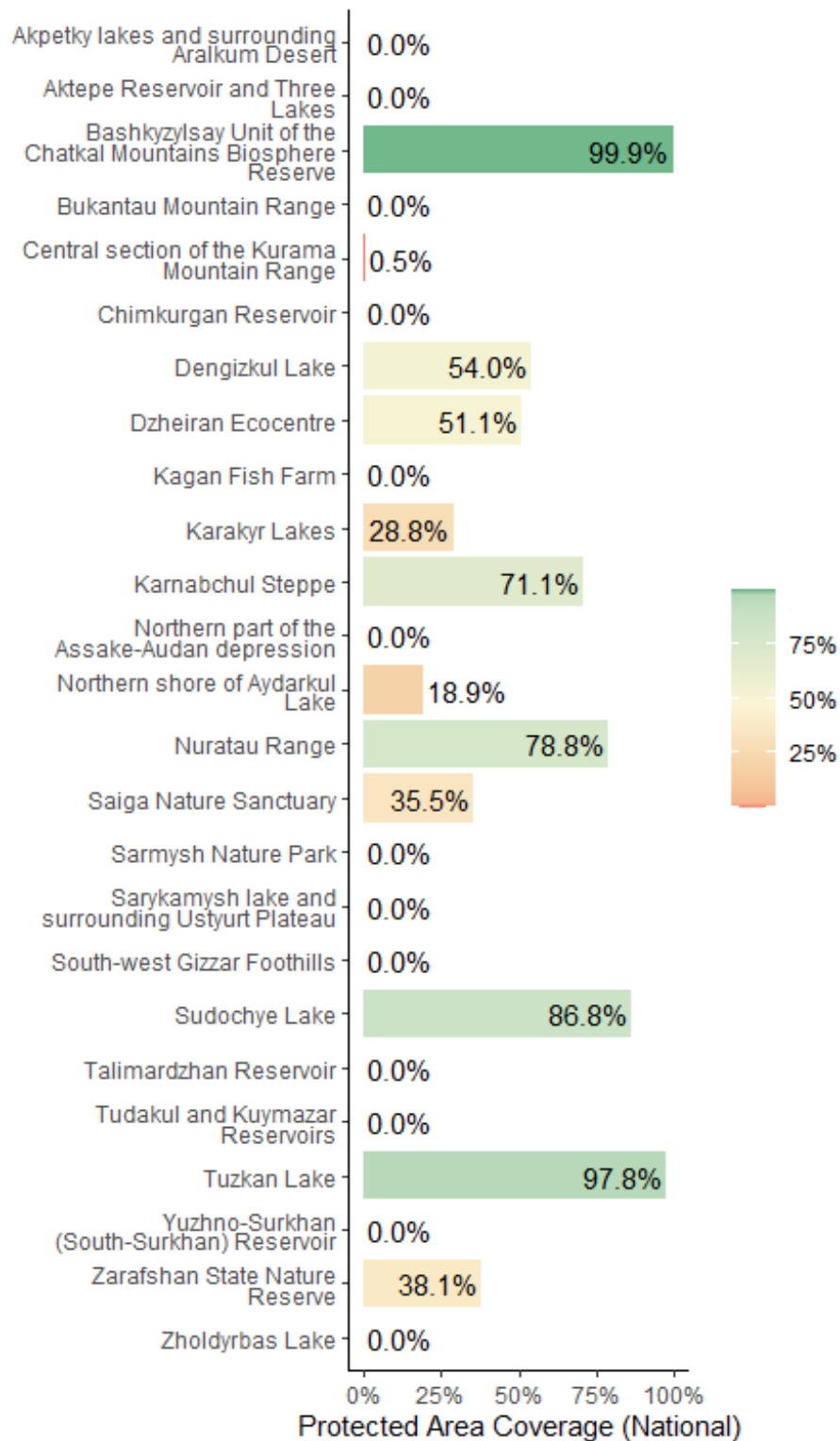
17 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: UZBEKISTAN



Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Uzbekistan

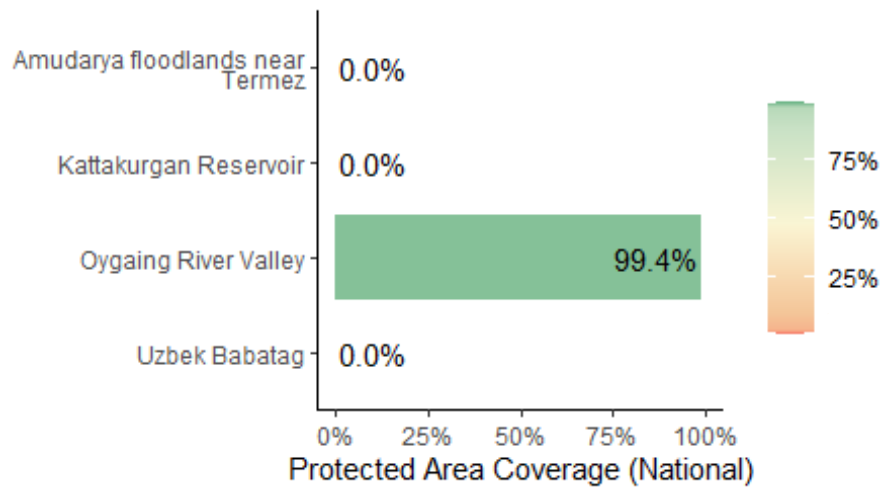


18 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: UZBEKISTAN



Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Uzbekistan (continued)

19 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: UZBEKISTAN



Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Uzbekistan

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Uzbekistan 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.

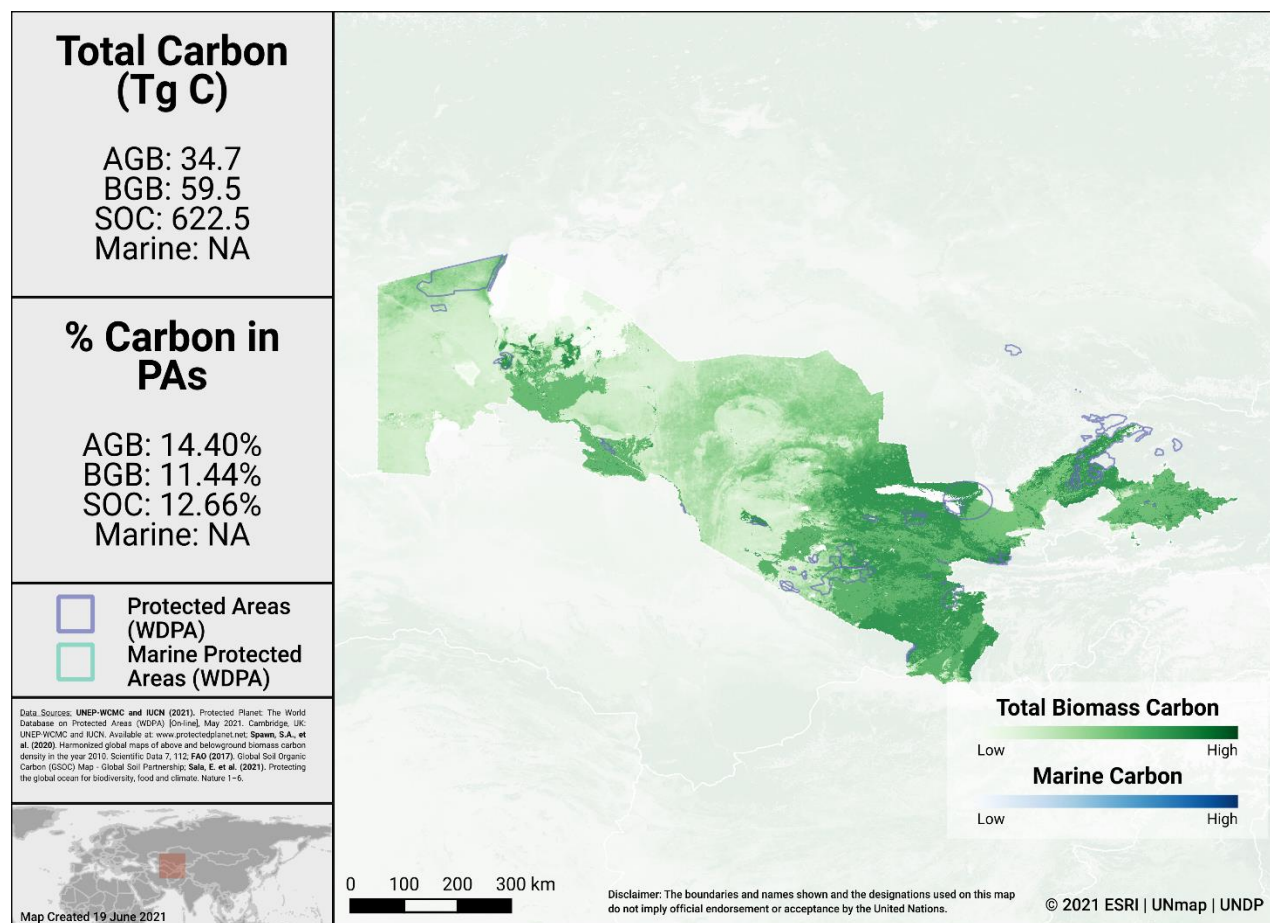
AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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 further details on methodology).

The map below presents the total carbon stocks in Uzbekistan and the percent of carbon in protected areas. The total carbon stocks is 34.7 Tg C from aboveground biomass (AGB), with 14.4% in protected areas; 59.5 Tg C from below ground biomass (BGB), with 11.4% in protected areas and 622.5 Tg C from soil organic carbon (SOC), with 12.7% in protected areas.



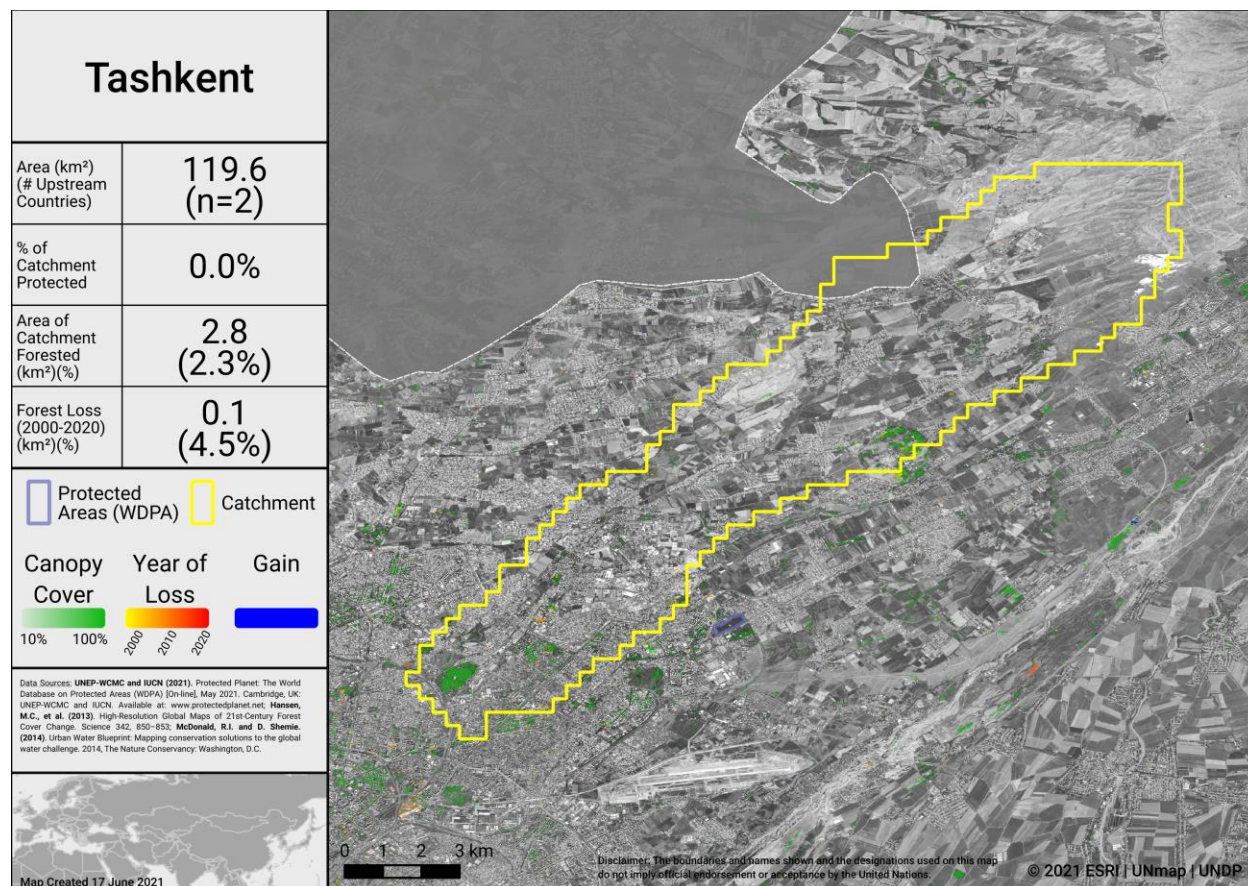
Carbon Stocks in Uzbekistan

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 and intact ecosystems 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 Uzbekistan may similarly depend on protected forest areas within and around water catchments. The map below shows the percentage forest and PA cover and the forest loss from 2000-2020 in the most heavily populated water catchment of Uzbekistan. Intact catchments can support more consistent water supply and improved water quality.



Water supply area for the city of Tashkent

Opportunities for action

For carbon, there is opportunity for Uzbekistan 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. 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 Uzbekistan was 2.5%.

PARC-Connectedness Index

In 2019, as assessed using the PARC-Connectedness Index (values ranging from 0-1, indicating low to high connectivity), connectivity in Uzbekistan is 0.37. This represents no significant change since 2010.

Corridor case studies

Ecological networking is currently poorly developed in Uzbekistan. There are no available corridor case studies for Uzbekistan (but see general details on conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors in Hilty et al 2020).

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity to focus on PA and OECM management for enhancing and maintaining connectivity. Increasing 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.

All protected areas have legal status and are managed by State Agencies and local authorities (100% of nationally designated PAs are under governance by Government).

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

- 89.2% are governed by **governments** (by federal or national ministry or agency)
- 0.0% are under **shared** governance
- 0.0% are under **private** governance
- 0.0% are under **IPLC** governance
- 10.8% **do not** report a governance type
 - (All are international designations)

OECMs

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

Privately Protected Areas (PPAs)

There is currently no data available on PPAs for Uzbekistan (see Gloss et al., 2019, and Stolton et al., 2014 for details).

Information on territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (ICCAs) reported from CBD technical series case studies:

There is currently no data available on ICCAs for Uzbekistan (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 Uzbekistan (see Garnett et al 2018 for details).

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Uzbekistan 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, Uzbekistan has 36 PAs reported in the WDPA; of these PAs, 8 (21.6%) have management effectiveness evaluations reported in the global database on protected area management effectiveness (GD-PAME).

- 0.4% (1,818 km²) of the terrestrial area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
 - 7.0% of the area of terrestrial PAs have completed evaluations.

The 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has not** been met for terrestrial PAs.

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

Opportunities for action

The 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has not** been met for terrestrial PAs, therefore, there is opportunity to increase protected area management effectiveness (PAME) evaluations for terrestrial PAs to achieve the target.

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 Central and Eastern Europe on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 took place 14 - 17 June 2016 in Minsk, Belarus. 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 **12,065km²** [removing the area of recent designations and other commitments]. Bringing with them benefits for the other qualifying elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.

The following actions were identified during the workshops:

Terrestrial coverage: Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers №255 from 29 August 2015 “On the comprehensive program of measures to mitigate the effects of the Aral Sea disaster, rehabilitation and socio-economic development of the Aral Sea region in the 2015-2018 gody” envisages the creation of 10 new protected areas with a total area of **3.7 mln. Ha**

[2 recently designated PAs cover 11,900 km², 1 WHS and 2 other PAs designated in 2016 and 2018, and 2,250km² covered by GEF project #8301].

Ecological representation: To resolve this problem in desert areas Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers №255 from 29 August 2025 “On the comprehensive program of measures to mitigate the effects of the Aral Sea disaster, rehabilitation and socio-economic development of the Aral Sea region in the years 2015-2018” provides for the establishment of 10 new protected areas with a total area of 3.7 mln. ha. It is necessary to attract funding from the GEF and other international financial institutions to implement existing proposals.

Areas Important for biodiversity and ecosystem services: Prepared proposals for inclusion in the Ramsar List of 2 water bodies.

Connectivity: Proposals have been developed as part of the planned large-scale UNDP-GEF project to expand the Chatkal reserve: by joining the r. Akbulak on the border with Kyrgyzstan, creating a corridor between the Bashkzylysay and Maidantal sections of the Chatkal reserve; creating a strictly protected zone in the upper reaches of the r. Pskem on the territory of Ugam_Chatkalsky National Park on the border with Kazakhstan, the expansion of the territory of the Gissar Reserve in the upper reaches of the r. Tupalang on

the border with Tajikistan. A draft Program has been prepared for the expansion of the protected areas, in which, among other things, it is planned to create a National Park in South Ustyurt on the border between Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

OECMs: For two reservoirs are prepared all the necessary documents and forwarded to the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention.

No actions were identified for the following elements of Target 11: Management effectiveness, Governance and Equity, Integration into the wider landscape.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

Uzbekistan has not submitted an NBSAP during the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (most recent NBSAP is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/search/>).

NBSAP submitted prior to the adoption of the Strategic Plan (1998) - revision underway

A **new NBSAP** was adopted by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan in **2019**

Other National commitment

Uzbekistan plans to increase the total area of PAs up to 12% in the next 2 years

- In addition to the other listed actions and projects, this will further increase coverage by **~1,850 km²**



APPROVED GEF-5 & GEF-6 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)	Type of new protected area	Qualitative elements potentially benefitting (based on keyword search of PIFs)
8031	Yes	2,250	Terrestrial	All except Equitably managed

Based on spatial data available for GEF project 3556 and 8031, benefits will arise for several elements of Target 11:

Coverage of Terrestrial Ecoregions:

- 1 Terrestrial Ecoregions will have improved coverage (Gissaro-Alai open woodlands)
 - Increase in coverage of Terrestrial Ecoregions will be 12.13%.

Coverage of KBAs:

- Coverage will improve for 1 KBA.

Ecosystem services:

- 1.41 % increase in the PA coverage of soil organic carbon (SOC).
- 0.83 % increase in the PA coverage of areas important for SOC.

Other GEF Projects:

- 1) Sustainable forest management in mountain and valley areas (\$3.1 M)
- 2) Sustainable use of natural resources and forest management in key mountain areas that are important for biological diversity (\$6.2 M)
- 3) Integrated management of natural resources in the arid and saline territories of Central Asia and Turkey (US \$4M)



ANNEX I

FULL LIST OF ECOREGIONS

Ecoregion Name	Area (km ²)	% of Global Ecoregion in Country	% of Country in Ecoregion	Area Protected (km ²)	% Protected in Country
Alai-Western Tian Shan steppe	71,788.6	56.2	16.0	5,840.9	8.1
Badghyz and Karabil semi-desert	11,249.3	8.4	2.5	149.7	1.3
Central Asian northern desert	104,716.5	15.8	23.3	6,744.6	6.4
Central Asian riparian woodlands	28,509.0	32.1	6.4	664.2	2.3
Central Asian southern desert	175,611.3	31.0	39.1	5,237.2	3.0
Gissaro-Alai open woodlands	35,940.8	21.4	8.0	6,317.3	17.6
Pamir alpine desert and tundra	85.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tian Shan montane steppe and meadows	694.2	0.2	0.2	412.0	59.3



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33 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: UZBEKISTAN

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For any questions please contact support@unbiodiveristylab.org.

