



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



# Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: GEORGIA

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>GLOSSARY</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<i>Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Elements: Current status and opportunities for action</i> .....	5
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>SECTION I: CURRENT STATUS</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<i>COVERAGE - TERRESTRIAL &amp; MARINE</i> .....	11
<i>ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS – TERRESTRIAL &amp; MARINE</i> .....	14
<i>AREAS IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY</i> .....	18
<i>AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES</i> .....	23
<i>CONNECTIVITY &amp; INTEGRATION</i> .....	26
<i>GOVERNANCE DIVERSITY</i> .....	27
<i>PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS</i> .....	28
<b>SECTION II: EXISTING PROTECTED AREA AND OECM COMMITMENTS</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<i>PRIORITY ACTIONS FROM 2015-2016 REGIONAL WORKSHOPS</i> .....	29
<i>NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)</i> .....	32
<i>APPROVED GEF-5 &amp; GEF-6 PROTECTED AREA PROJECTS</i> .....	34
<i>OTHER ACTIONS/COMMITMENTS</i> .....	35
<b>ANNEX I</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<i>FULL LIST OF TERRESTRIAL ECOREGIONS</i> .....	36
<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>37</b>



## GLOSSARY

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AZEs	Alliance for Zero Extinction sites
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area
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
MEOW	Marine Ecosystems of the World
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
OECD	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures
PA	Protected Area
PAME	Protected Area Management Effectiveness
PPA	Privately Protected Area
PPOW	Pelagic Provinces of the World
ProtConn	Protected Connected land indicator
SOC	Soil Organic Carbon
TEOW	Terrestrial Ecosystems of the World
WDPA	World Database on Protected Areas
WD-OECD	World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures



## 4 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: GEORGIA

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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

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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](mailto: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 - Terrestrial & Marine

- **Status:** as of May 2021 (per the WDPA), terrestrial coverage in Georgia is 6,500.8 km<sup>2</sup> (9.3%) and marine coverage is 153.0 km<sup>2</sup> (0.7%); recently designated sites (in the process of being reported to the WDPA) bring this up to 7,982.87 km<sup>2</sup> (11.4%) terrestrial cover.
- **Opportunities for action:** opportunities for the near-term include updating the WDPA with any other 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— Terrestrial & Marine

- **Status:** Georgia contains 4 terrestrial ecoregions, 1 marine ecoregion, and 1 pelagic province: the mean coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 6.9% (terrestrial), 3.2% (marine), and 0.0% (pelagic); 1 pelagic province has no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Georgia to increase protection in terrestrial and marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces that have lower levels of



## 6 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: GEORGIA

coverage by PAs or OECMs. Ecoregions which currently have no coverage by PAs or OECMs are key areas for action.

### Areas Important for Biodiversity

- **Status:** Georgia has 50 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): the coverage of KBAs by reported PAs and OECMs (excluding Emerald network sites) is 32%, while 12 KBAs have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Georgia 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 Georgia, 9.9% of aboveground biomass carbon, 11.1% of belowground biomass carbon, 10.9% of soil organic carbon, 1.3% of carbon stored in marine sediments is covered by PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** for carbon, there is opportunity for Georgia to increase PA and OECM coverage in both marine and 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 4.6%.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is 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:** the most common governance type(s) for reported PAs in Georgia is: 100.0% under Government (97.9% by Federal or national ministry or agency; 2.1% by local municipalities).



## 7 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: GEORGIA

- **Opportunities for action:** explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation, for Georgia this could relate to shared governance, etc.
- There is also opportunity for Georgia 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:** 70.4% of terrestrial PAs and 100.0% of marine 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 and **has** been met for marine PAs. Further increasing this percentage for terrestrial PAs 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

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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 Georgia. Section I of the dossier presents data on the current status of Georgia’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 opportunities for action for Georgia, in relation to each Target 11 element. The analyses present options for improving Georgia’s area-based conservation network to achieve enhanced protection and benefits for livelihoods and climate change. Section II presents details on Georgia’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.



## 9 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: GEORGIA

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](http://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](http://www.wcmc.io/WDPA_Manual)), and these should be directed to [protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org](mailto: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](http://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

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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.



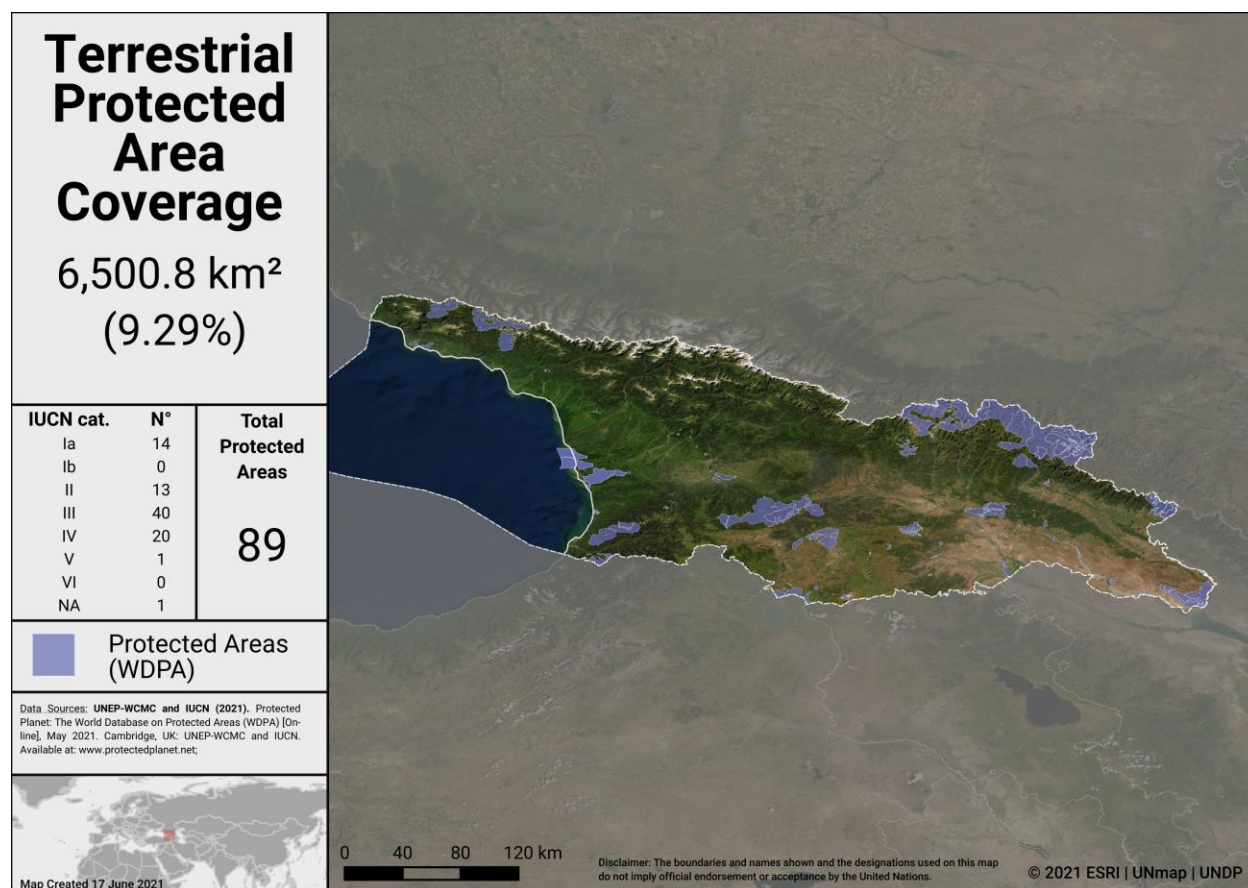
## COVERAGE - TERRESTRIAL & MARINE

Georgia has a total of **94** protected areas (as of May 2021, there were 89 reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), updates are underway).

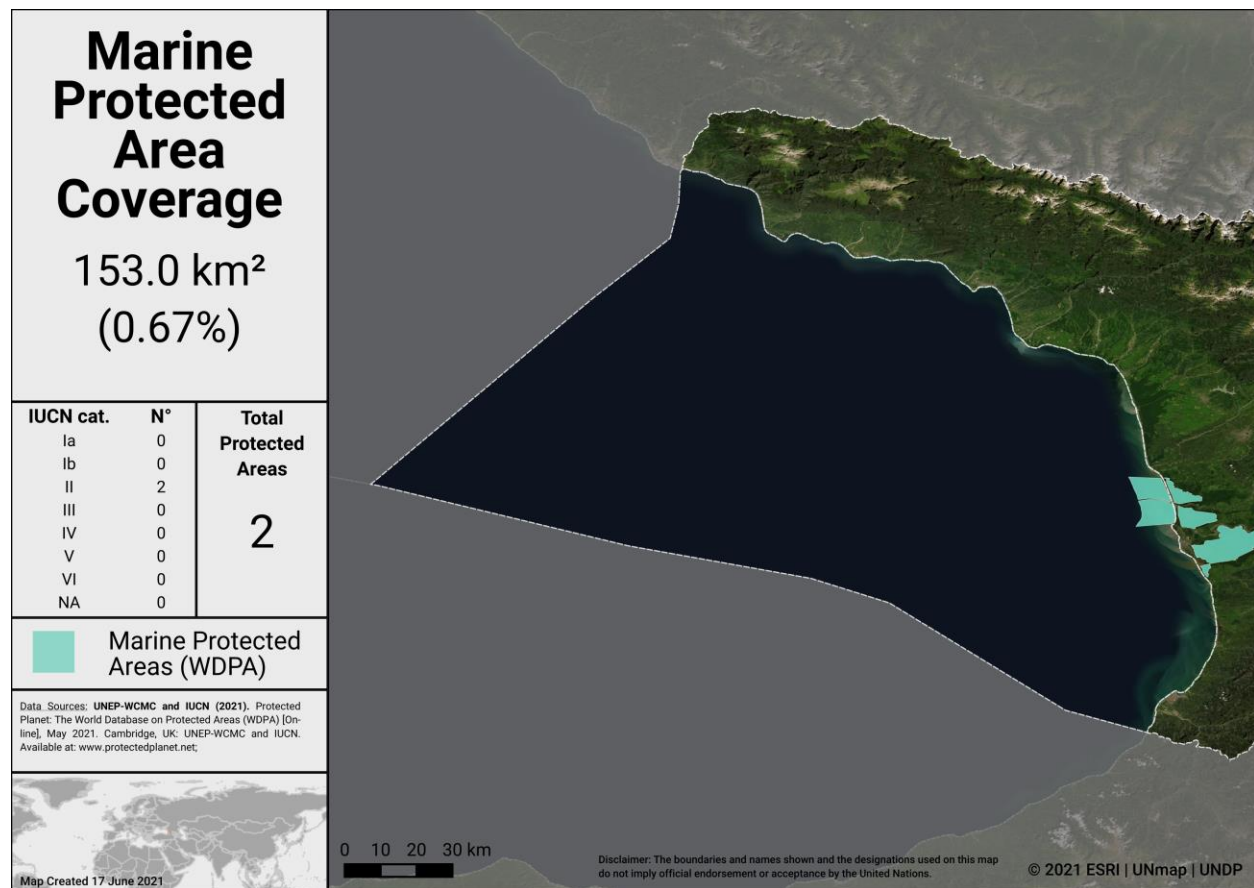
As of May 2021, Georgia has **0** OECMs reported in the world database on OECMs (WD-OECM).

Current coverage for Georgia:

- 11.4% terrestrial (with 94 protected areas, 7,982.87 km<sup>2</sup>)
  - As of May 2021, WDPA listed: 9.3% terrestrial (89 PAs, 6,500.8 km<sup>2</sup>)
- 0.7% marine (2 protected areas, 153.0 km<sup>2</sup>)



Terrestrial Protected Areas in Georgia (does not include 5 recently added PAs; coverage is now 11.4%)



Marine Protected Areas in Georgia

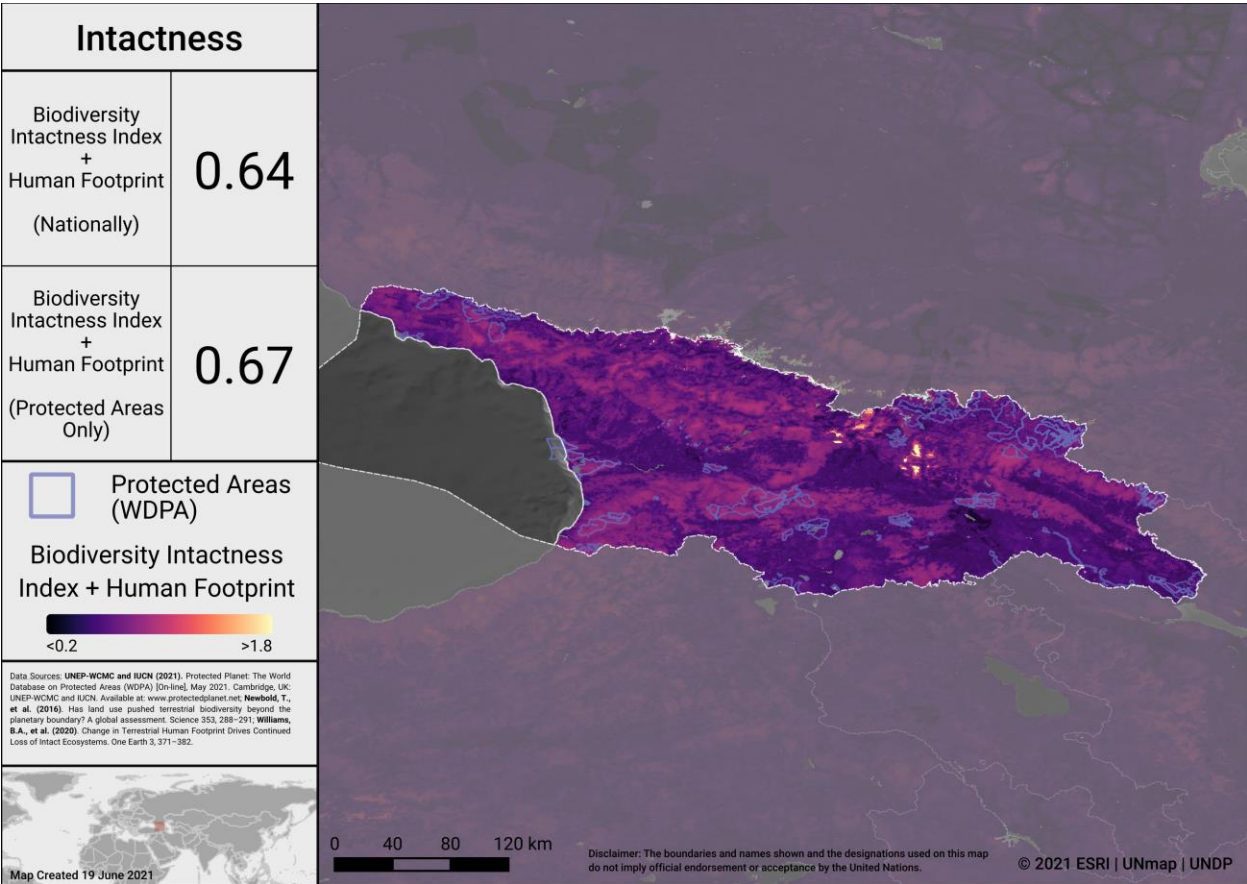
### Potential OECMs

There are currently no potential OECM examples for Georgia.

### 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 Georgia considers where to add new PAs and OECMs, the map below identifies areas in Georgia where intact terrestrial 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.

13 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: GEORGIA



Intactness in Georgia

To explore more on intactness visit the UN Biodiversity Lab: [map.unbiodiversitylab.org](http://map.unbiodiversitylab.org).

## ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS – TERRESTRIAL & MARINE

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).

Georgia has 4 **terrestrial** ecoregions. Out of these:

- 4 ecoregions have at least some coverage from PAs and OECMs.
- 0 ecoregions have at least 17% protected within the country.
- The average coverage of terrestrial ecoregions is 6.9%.

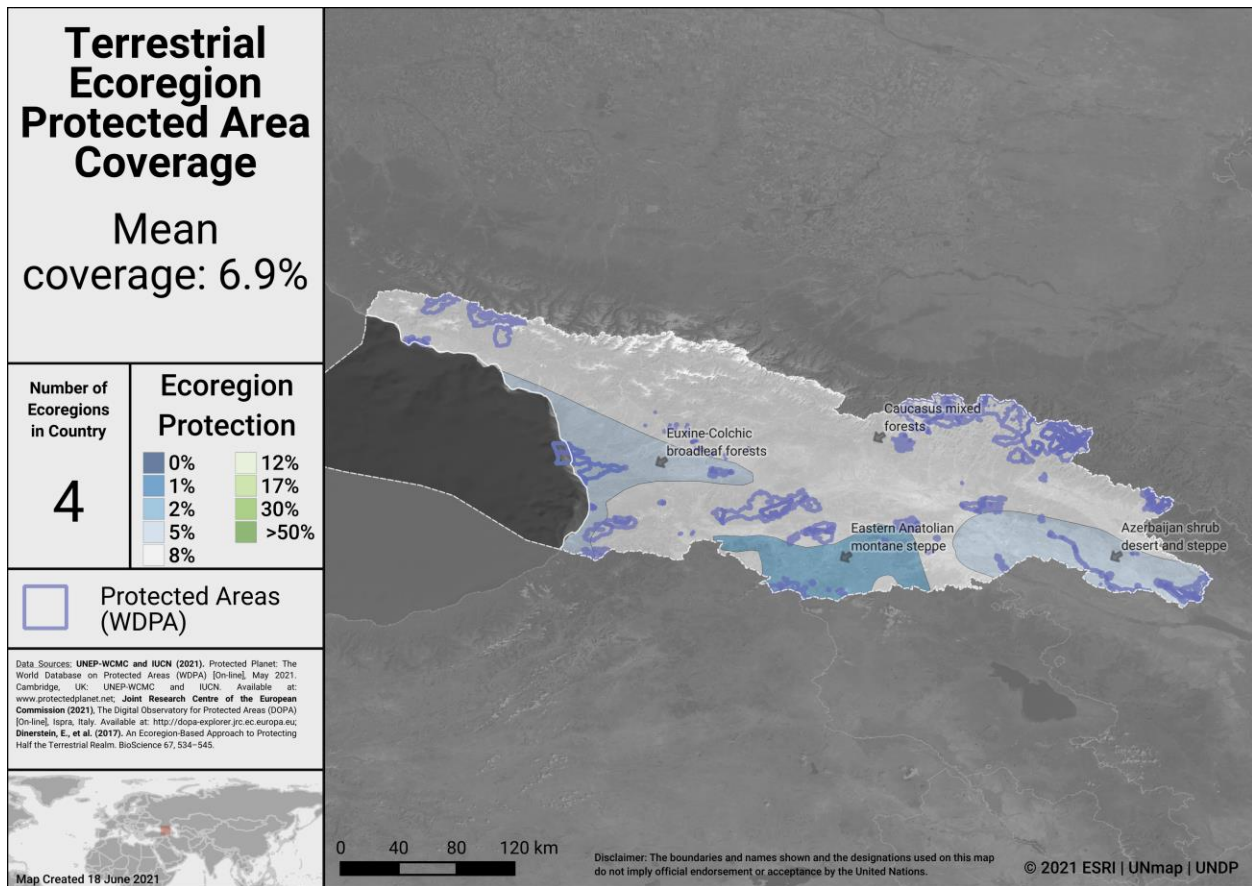
*Coverage will have increased with the addition of 5 new terrestrial PAs (data is currently under submission for inclusion in the WDPAs)*

Georgia has 1 **marine** ecoregion and 1 **pelagic province**:

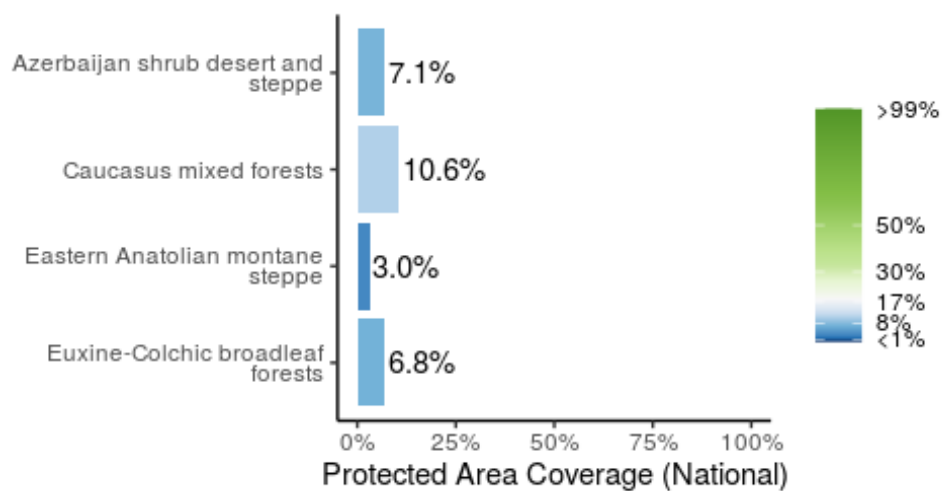
- Coverage from reported PAs and OECMs is 3.2% (marine ecoregion) and 0.0% (pelagic province).

A full list of ecoregions in Georgia is available in Annex II.



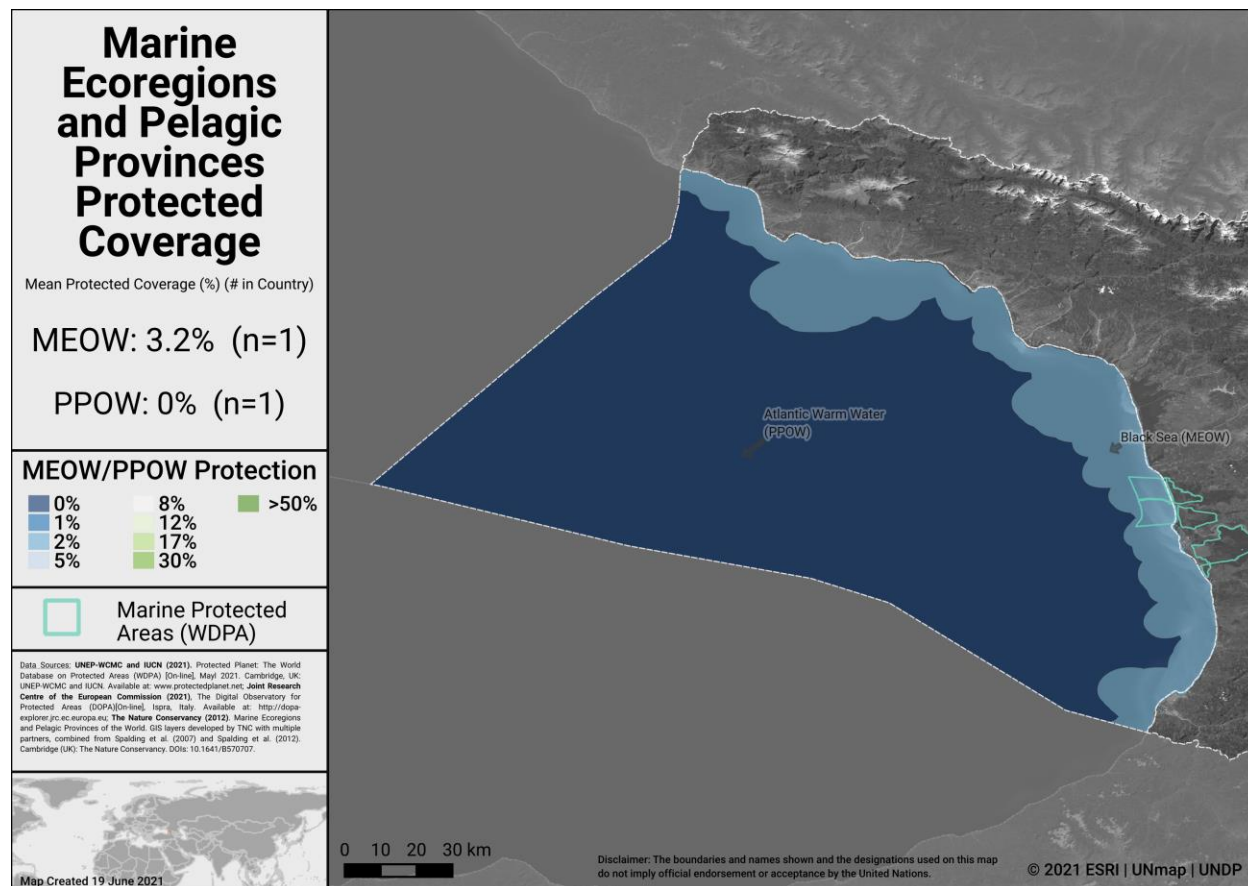


Terrestrial ecoregions in Georgia (does not include 5 recently added PAs)

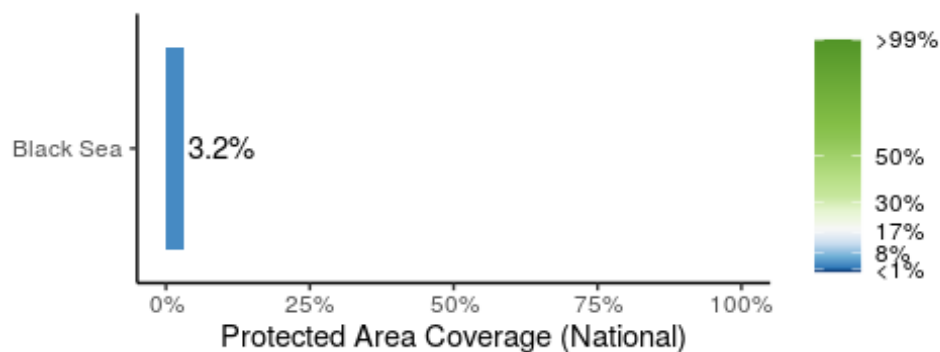


Terrestrial ecoregions of the World (TEOW) in Georgia





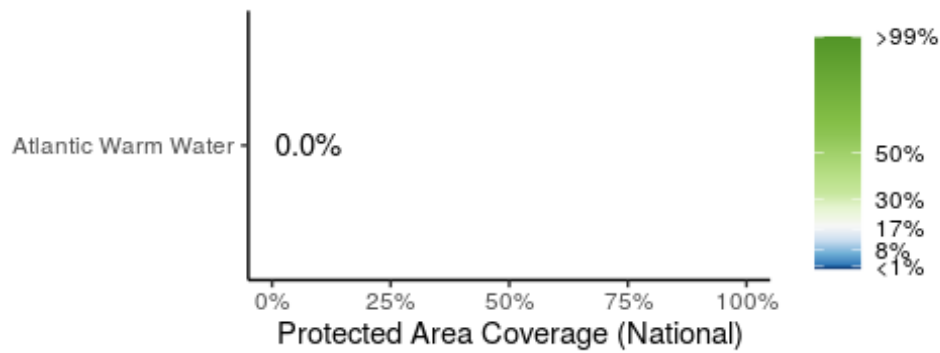
Marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces



Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW) in Georgia:







Pelagic Provinces of the World (PPOW) in Georgia:

### Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Georgia to increase protection in terrestrial and marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces 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.

## 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](http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org).

Georgia has 52 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) [**50 KBAs** included in analysis]

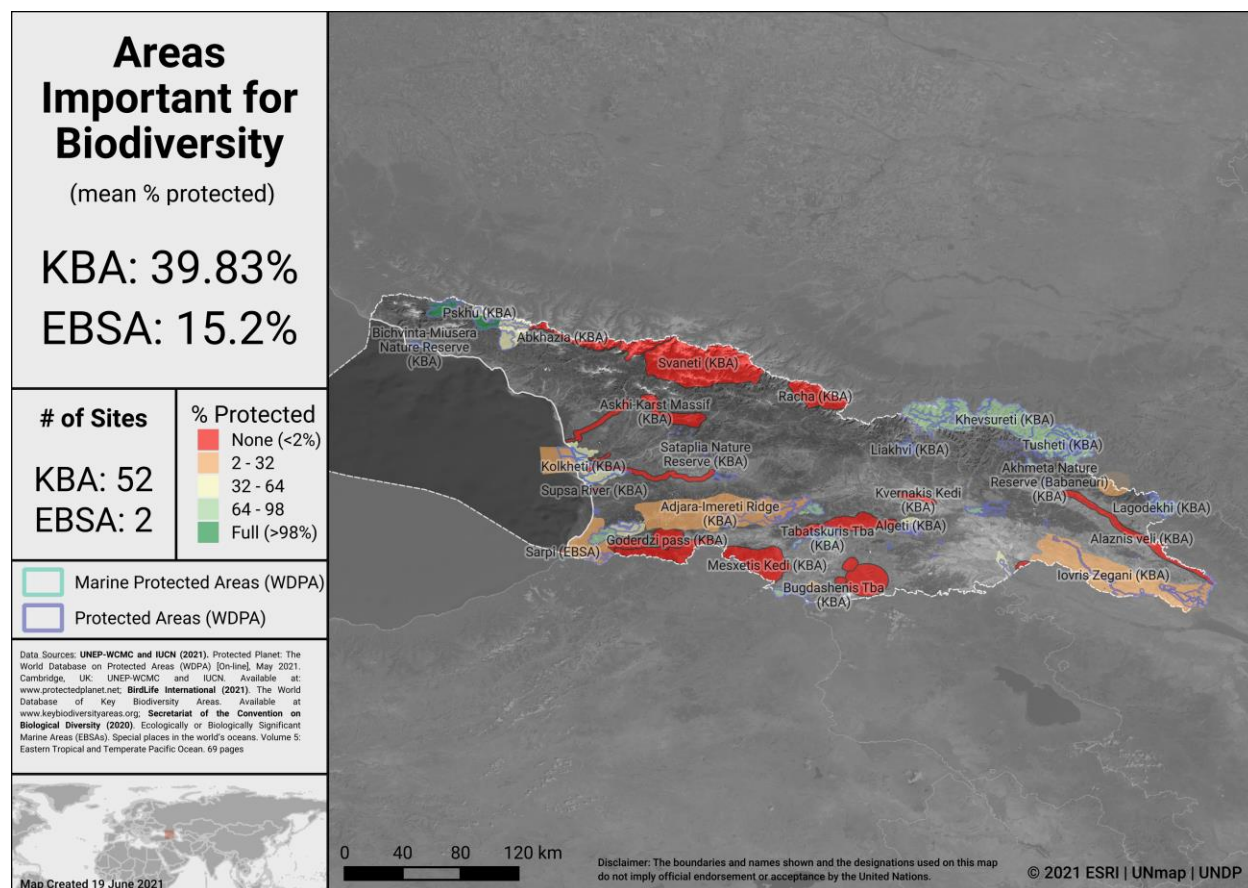
- Mean percent coverage of all KBAs by PAs and OECMs in Georgia is 39.8%.
- 3 KBAs have full (>98%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- 28 KBAs have partial coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- 19 KBAs have no (<2%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.

*Accounting for recent PA increases, coverage of KBAs by PA is **32%** [excluding the Emerald Network], and **12 KBAs** are not covered by any PAs.*

### Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)

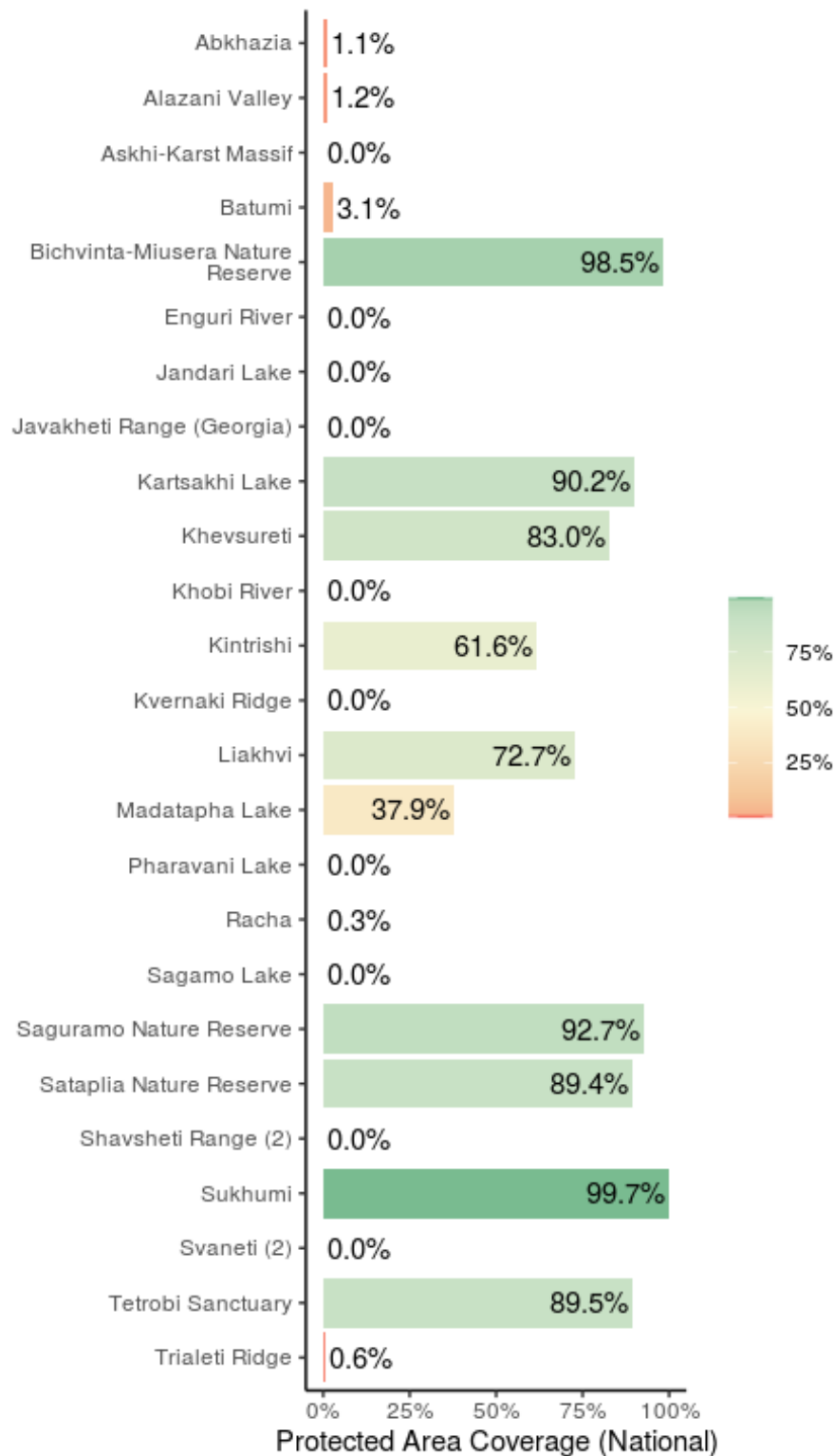
Other important areas for biodiversity may also include Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), which were identified following the scientific criteria adopted at COP-9 (Decision IX/20; see more at: <https://www.cbd.int/ebsa/>). Sites that meet the EBSA criteria may require enhanced conservation and management measures; this could be achieved through means including MPAs, OECMs, marine spatial planning, and impact assessment.

There are 2 EBSAs with some portion of their extent within Georgia's EEZ, of which 1 EBSA has no coverage from PAs or OECMs.



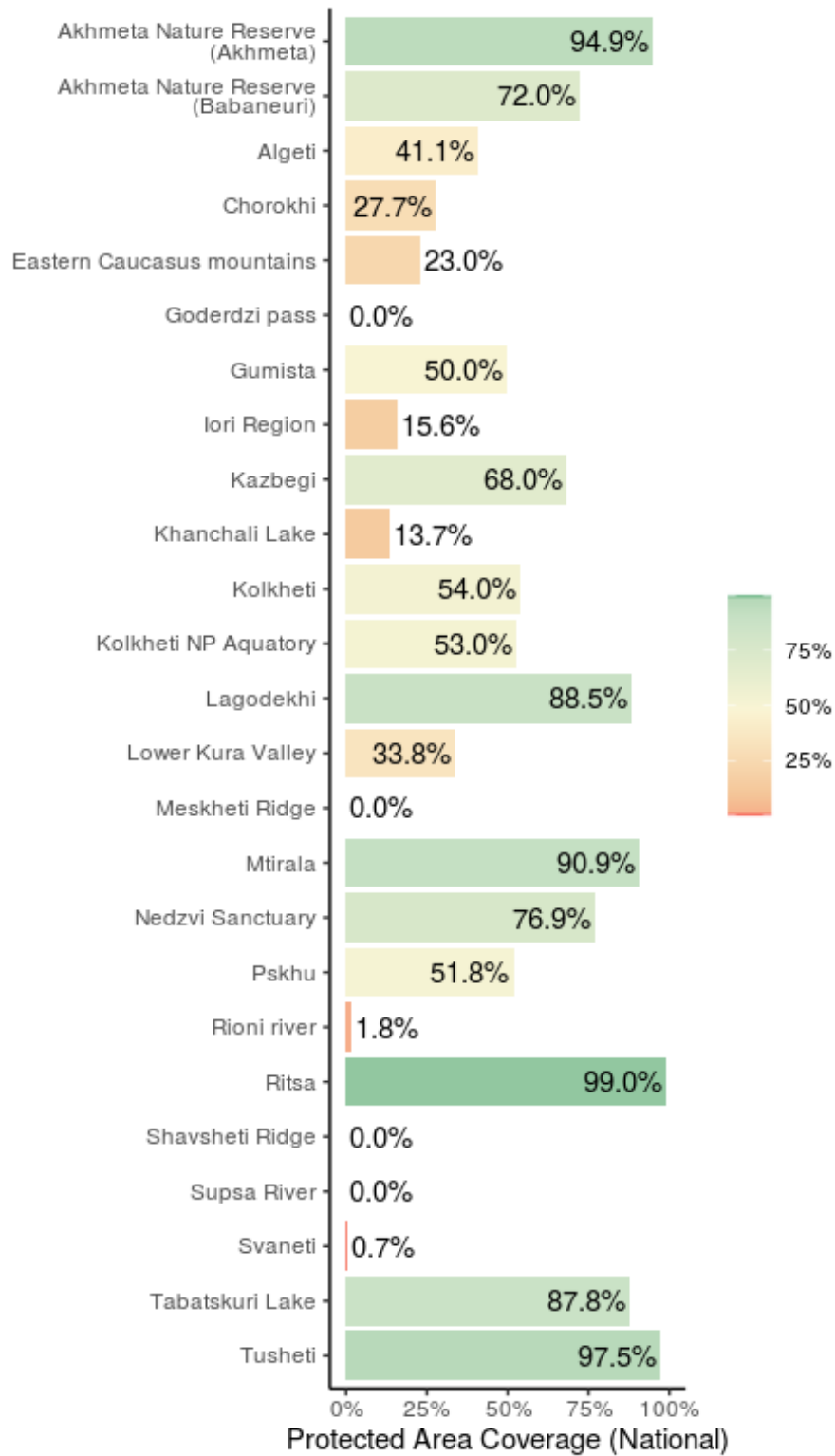
Areas Important for Biodiversity in Georgia (does not include 5 recently added PAs)

## 20 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: GEORGIA

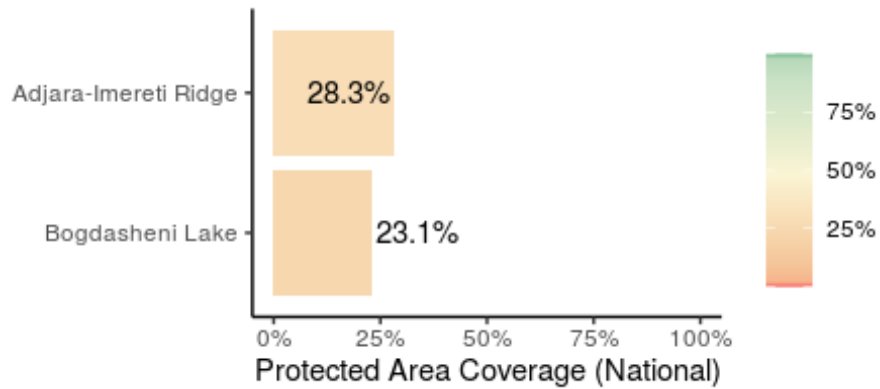


Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Georgia (does not include 5 recently added PAs)

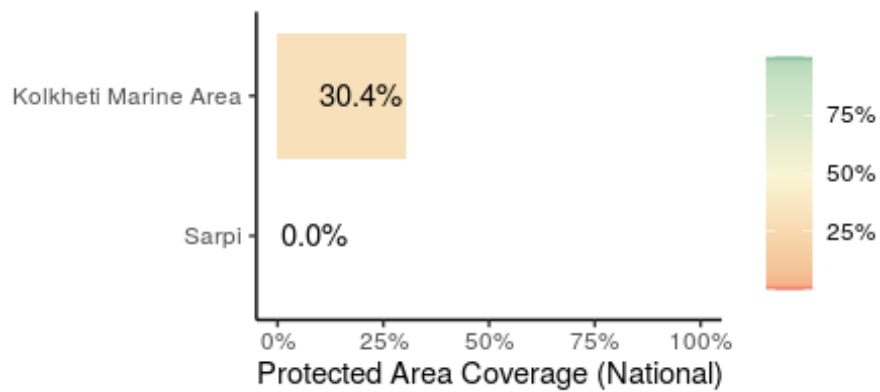
21 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: GEORGIA



Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Georgia (continued) (does not include 5 recently added PAs)



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



Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in Georgia

### Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Georgia 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.

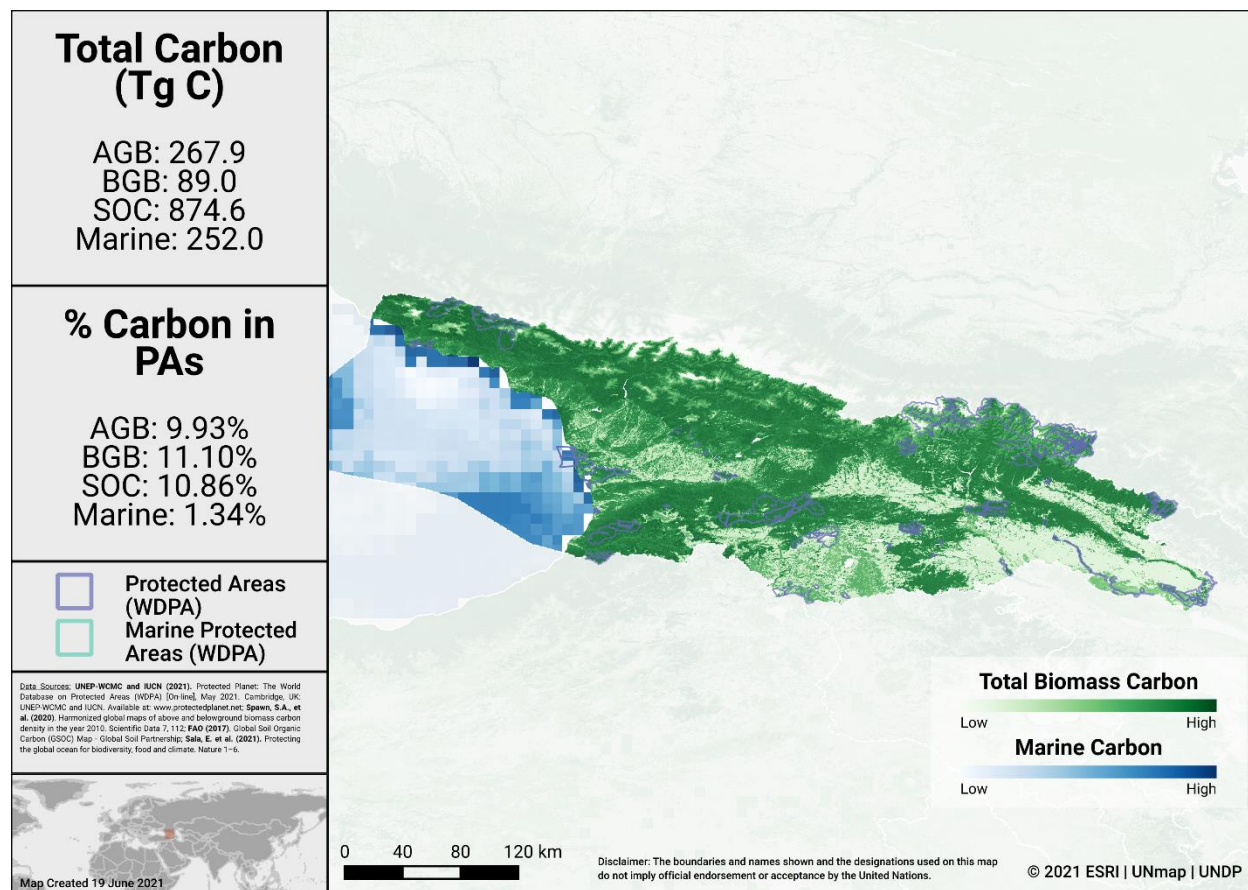
## AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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). Data is also presented from global maps of marine sedimentary carbon stocks, standardized to a 1-meter depth (see Sala et al., 2021, and Atwood et al., 2020).

The map below presents the total carbon stocks in Georgia and the percent of carbon in protected areas. The total carbon stocks is 267.9 Tg C from aboveground biomass (AGB), with 9.9% in protected areas; 89.0 Tg C from below ground biomass (BGB), with 11.1% in protected areas; 874.6 Tg C from soil organic carbon (SOC), with 10.9% in protected areas; and 252.0 Tg C from marine sediment carbon, with 1.3% in protected areas.



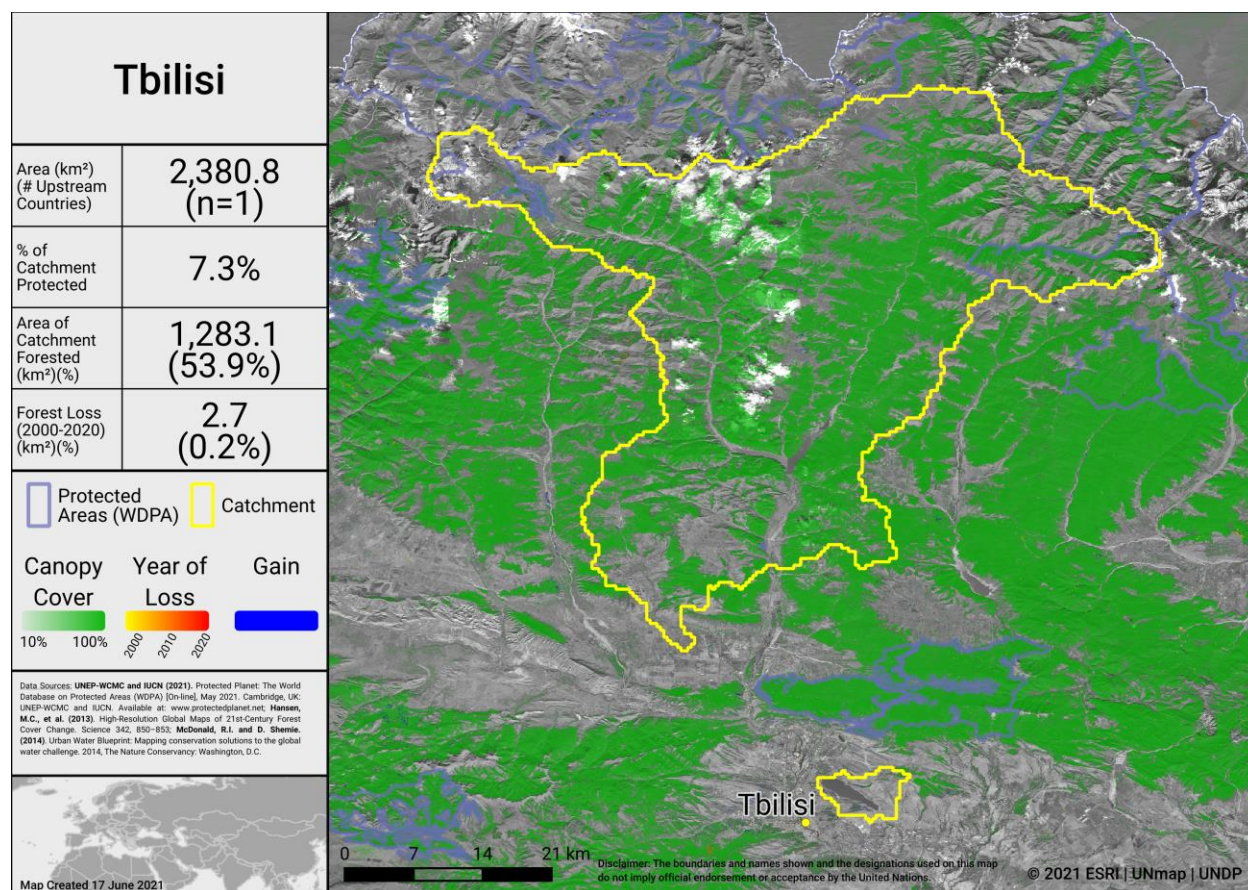
Carbon Stocks in Georgia

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 Georgia 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 Georgia. Intact can catchments support more consistent water supply and improved water quality.



Water supply area for the city of Tbilisi



### Opportunities for action

For carbon, there is opportunity for Georgia to increase PA and OECM coverage in both marine and 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, though some recent developments include proposed guidance for the treatment of connectivity in the planning and management of MPAs (see Lausche et al., 2021).

### 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 Georgia was 4.6%.

### PARC-Connectedness Index

In 2019, as assessed using the PARC-Connectedness Index (values ranging from 0-1, indicating low to high connectivity), connectivity in Georgia is 0.26. This represents an increase from 0.25 in 2010.

### Corridor case studies

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

### Opportunities for action

There is 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

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 Georgia reported in the WDPA have the following governance types (based on the 89 PAs in the WDPA at the time of creating the dossier):

- 100.0% 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
- 0.0% **do not** report a governance type

Governance information needs to be updated to reflect new PAs; there are now 2 new protected landscapes (Truso and Aragvi) governed by local municipalities (2.1%)

### OECMs

As of May 2021, there are **0** OECMs in Georgia 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 Georgia (see Gloss et al., 2019, and Stolton et al., 2014 for details).

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

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

### Opportunities for action

Explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation, for Georgia this could relate to shared governance, etc. There is also opportunity for Georgia 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, Georgia had 89 PAs reported in the WDPA [now a total of 94 PAs in the country]; of these PAs, 62 (66%) have management effectiveness evaluations reported in the global database on protected area management effectiveness (GD-PAME).

- 8.0% (5,585 km<sup>2</sup>) of the terrestrial area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
  - 70.4% of the area of terrestrial PAs have completed evaluations (based on the updated coverage of 11.4%).
- 0.7% (153 km<sup>2</sup>) of the marine area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
  - 100.0% of the area of marine PAs have completed evaluations.

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

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

### Forest cover in protected areas and OECMs

Forested areas in Georgia cover approximately 43.2% of the country, an area of 30,076 km<sup>2</sup>. Approximately 15.1% of this is within the protected area estate of Georgia (the remaining 84.9% outside of PAs).

### Opportunities for action

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



## SECTION II: EXISTING PROTECTED AREA AND OECM COMMITMENTS

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### 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 **1,628km<sup>2</sup>**. Bringing with them benefits for the other qualifying elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.

The following actions were identified during the workshops:

#### Terrestrial coverage:

- 1) Territories which are currently designated as a candidate Emerald Sites, cover more than 10% of the terrestrial area of the country and totally proposed sites are approximately covering 20%. At the same time currently identified IBAs cover approximately 20% of the country. At the moment there is no legal basis to provide official status for these territories, however new draft law on Biodiversity, to be adopted next year, gives opportunity to designate new types of protected areas, such as IBAs and Emerald Sites. Therefore, it will be possible to give national status to these territories. Of course, all these territories have big overlaps, however considering that IBA sites cover largest territory with approximately 20%, it means that terrestrial target should be reached by 2020.
- 2) Adoption of corresponding legislation by 2017, to create legislative basis for new categories of the protected areas, such as IBAs, Emerald Network
- 3) Establishment of new protected areas (Svaneti, Racha, Erusheti, Rioni Delta), according to the feasibility studies [Svaneti IBA is 69,436ha, Racha IBA is 56,906ha, Rioni Delta KBA is 36,692ha [with PA covering 270.76ha], Erusheti (area not known)]
- 4) Full adoption of the Candidate Emerald Sites
- 5) Establish new protected areas on the territories identified as IBAs.

**Marine coverage:** Establishment of the new Protected area at Chorokhi Delta, which involves marine area as well.

**Ecological representation:**

- 1) Initiate research on distribution of protected areas considering ecological representation
- 2) In case of necessity establishment of new protected areas should be initiated.

**Areas Important for biodiversity and ecosystem services:**

- 1) Adoption of corresponding legislation by 2017, to create legislative basis for new categories of the protected areas, such as IBAs, Emerald Network
- 2) Finalization of the study on Important Plant Areas and establishment of Protected Areas if necessary
- 3) Initiate inventory of ecosystem services, it's distribution and initiate establishment of new protected areas if necessary
- 4) Establish new protected areas on the territories identified as IBAs

**Connectivity:**

- 1) New project has started in order to identify all areas necessary for connectivity of the protected areas. By next year all areas will be identified
- 2) Explore possibilities for establishment of protected areas at the territories required for connectivity

**Management effectiveness:**

- 1) Mid-term review of the management effectiveness should be undertaken under the planned GEF project
- 2) Assessment of PA management effectiveness
- 3) Identification of actions necessary for improving of management effectiveness

**Governance and Equity:**

- 1) Adoption of corresponding legislation by 2017, to create legislative basis for establishment of privately or community managed protected areas
- 2) Enhance transboundary cooperation

**Integration into the wider landscape and seascape:**

- 1) Establishment of buffer zones according to the needs of specific protected areas
- 2) Explore possibilities for effective management of buffer zones



- 3) Explore opportunities for integration into wider land and seascapes

**OECMs:**

- 1) Identification of the actions for improvement of management of hunting farms and increasing of their contribution towards conservation goals
- 2) Explore opportunities for other effective-area based conservation measures.



## NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

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

*National Goal C.4: By 2020, at least 12% of the country's terrestrial and inland water areas and 2.5 % of marine areas are covered by protected areas; areas of particular importance for ecosystem services are effectively and equitably managed via an ecologically representative system and other effective conservation measures; development of the protected area network and its integration into the wider landscape and seascapes is ongoing*

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

- Has the target been met: **NO**
  - Target will be met with completion of National Priority Action (see previous section).

This NBSAP **did** include a quantitative target for **marine** protected areas or OECMs.

- As of May 2021 (based on the WDPA/WD-OECM) has the target been met: **NO**
- Accounting for other projects, actions and commitments, if this target is met, coverage in the country will increase by **420 km<sup>2</sup>**.

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

NBSAP Action number	Action (original language from NBSAP)
B.4-o1.6	Elaborate sustainable management plans for the pastures situated within protected areas
C.4-o1.1	Improve the PA legislation (by the approval of a full set of regulations) using the latest IUCN guidelines
C.4-o2.1	Identify existing gaps in the protected areas system using modern methodologies of spatial analysis
C.4-o2.2	Develop a plan for the protected areas system and network development
C.4-o3.1	Establish new protected areas of different categories
C.4-o3.2	Expand existing protected areas as needed





NBSAP Action number	Action (original language from NBSAP)
C.4-o3.3	Increase the international recognition of Georgia's protected areas and support the establishment of new protected areas using international instruments such as a Ramsar sites, UNESCO World Nature Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves.
C.4-o4.2	Develop the Emerald Network of Georgia
C.4-o5.1	Develop the knowledge and capacity of the personnel of the APA and PA administrations through regular training programs
C.4-o5.2	Prepare management plans for protected areas that do not have them
C.4-o5.3	Identify and demarcate the borders of protected areas
C.4-o5.4	Assess the feasibility of various mechanisms for the avoidance/mitigation of any direct and indirect impacts on PAs from land use and/or development projects outside of PAs; introduce relevant changes to all related laws
C.4-o5.5	Establish a regulatory framework for the enforcement of the APA's rights (given to it by law) to avoid/mitigate any direct and indirect impacts on PAs from land use and/or development projects outside of PAs
C.4-o5.6	Conduct regular assessments of protected areas management effectiveness
C.4-o5.7	Increase involvement of stakeholders—especially of local communities (with due regard to gender equality)—in the management and planning of protected areas
C.4-o6.1	Assess the feasibility of introducing various types of PA management; implement pilot projects
C.4-o6.2	Assess the feasibility of and implement compensation mechanisms and incentives for biodiversity protection and sustainable use in PAs
C.4-o7.1	Develop and agree upon a framework for transboundary cooperation between the PAs of Georgia and those of neighbouring countries
C.4-o7.2	Develop joint pilot projects (on tourism, monitoring, etc.) on transboundary cooperation between PAs
C.6-o1.1	Create a new protected area covering the Sarpi-Kvariati and Mtsvane Kontskhi areas



<b>NBSAP Action number</b>	<b>Action (original language from NBSAP)</b>
D.1-o1.2	Assess the impact of climate change on biodiversity in vulnerable areas(e.g. Dedoplistskaro, Gardabani, Sagarejo, the Black Sea coast, high mountain areas, The Iori Plateau, and Karasani Ridge) and protected areas; develop relevant recommendations using methodologies accepted among the research and NGO circles
E.2-o1.8	Provide trainings to PA staff so that they are able to lead education activities for different age groups
E1-o2.3	Create databases for protected areas
E1-o2.4	Improve research and monitoring in protected areas

## 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).

<b>GEF ID</b>	<b>PA increase?</b>	<b>Area to be added (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Type of new protected area</b>	<b>Qualitative elements potentially benefitting (based on keyword search of PIFs)</b>
4835	Yes	29	Terrestrial	All except Ecosystem services
9879	No	N/A	N/A	Areas important for biodiversity; Effectively managed; Equitably managed; Integration

## OTHER ACTIONS/COMMITMENTS

### Leaders' Pledge for Nature

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

Political leaders participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 84 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.

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

*Speaking of my country, Georgia is distinguished by its unique biodiversity. With thousands of endemic species and hundreds of thousands of hectares of protected areas. Through the Emerald network, that we have now joined, we are pushing toward our goal of covering up to 20% of Georgia's territory with protected areas.*



## ANNEX I

### FULL LIST OF TERRESTRIAL ECOREGIONS

<b>Ecoregion Name</b>	<b>Area (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>% of Global Ecoregion in Country</b>	<b>% of Country in Ecoregion</b>	<b>Area Protected (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>% Protected in Country</b>
Azerbaijan shrub desert and steppe	6,898.9	10.8	9.9	490.6	7.1
Caucasus mixed forests	51,152.2	30.0	73.4	5,401.6	10.6
Eastern Anatolian montane steppe	5,410.2	3.2	7.8	164.6	3.0
Euxine-Colchic broadleaf forests	6,382.5	8.6	9.2	435.8	6.8



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## 40 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: GEORGIA

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For any questions please contact [support@unbiodiveristylab.org](mailto:support@unbiodiveristylab.org).

