



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: MOLDOVA (REPUBLIC OF)

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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. 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:** as of July 2021, official records indicate that terrestrial coverage in the Republic of Moldova is 5.61% [the [WDPA](#) currently lists 3,882.3 km² and 11.4%].
- **Opportunities for action:** opportunities for the near-term include completing the review of spatial data for PAs in Republic of Moldova, and working to update records in the [WDPA](#). 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:** Moldova (Republic of) contains 3 terrestrial ecoregions (all of which have at least partial coverage by reported PAs and OECMs): the mean coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 3.8%.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Moldova (Republic of) to increase protection in terrestrial ecoregions that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs.



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Areas Important for Biodiversity

- **Status:** Moldova (Republic of) has 11 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): the mean protected coverage of KBAs by reported PAs and OECMs is 76.6%, while 1 has no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Moldova (Republic of) to increase protection of KBAs that have lower levels of coverage by PAs and OECMs, and to focus on effective management for those that already have adequate coverage; priority could be given to those with no current coverage.

Areas Important for Ecosystem Services

- **Status:** coverage of areas important for ecosystem services: In Moldova (Republic of), 7.2% of aboveground biomass carbon, 7.2% of belowground biomass carbon and 3.9% of soil organic carbon is covered by PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** for carbon, there is opportunity for Moldova (Republic of) 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 2.1%. Since 2016, the Institute of Ecology and Geography has implemented a project on the "Integrated assessment of anthropogenic impact on representative ecosystems in order to conserve and expand state protected natural areas (SNPA) in the context of the requirements of EU Directives".
- **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:** the most common governance type(s) for reported PAs in the Republic of Moldova (in the WDPA): 48.0% under Government (Federal or national ministry or agency).



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- **Opportunities for action:** increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 52.0% of sites that do not have their governance type reported. If applicable, explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation.
- There is also opportunity for Moldova (Republic of) 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:** 69.3% 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 Moldova (Republic of). Section I of the dossier presents data on the current status of Moldova (Republic of)’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 Moldova (Republic of), in relation to each Target 11 element. The analyses present options for improving Moldova (Republic of)’s area-based conservation network to achieve enhanced protection and benefits for livelihoods and climate change. Section II presents details on Moldova (Republic of)’s existing PA and OECM commitments as a summary of existing efforts towards achieving Target 11. This gives focus not only to national policy

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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. Where available, results from national reporting are also included.



COVERAGE

As of May 2021, Moldova (Republic of) has **127** protected areas reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

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

Currently, the source of data for PAs from the Republic of Moldova listed in the WDPA is unclear. Work is ongoing to update this information and ensure that PAs records reflect officially recorded PAs in the Republic of Moldova. A review is currently being undertaken regarding the spatial data for PAs, in order to align the data in the WDPA with national records.

Current coverage (listed in the WDPA) for Moldova (Republic of):

- 11.4% terrestrial (127 protected areas, 3,882.3 km²)
 - Status for the other elements in this dossier based on these figures

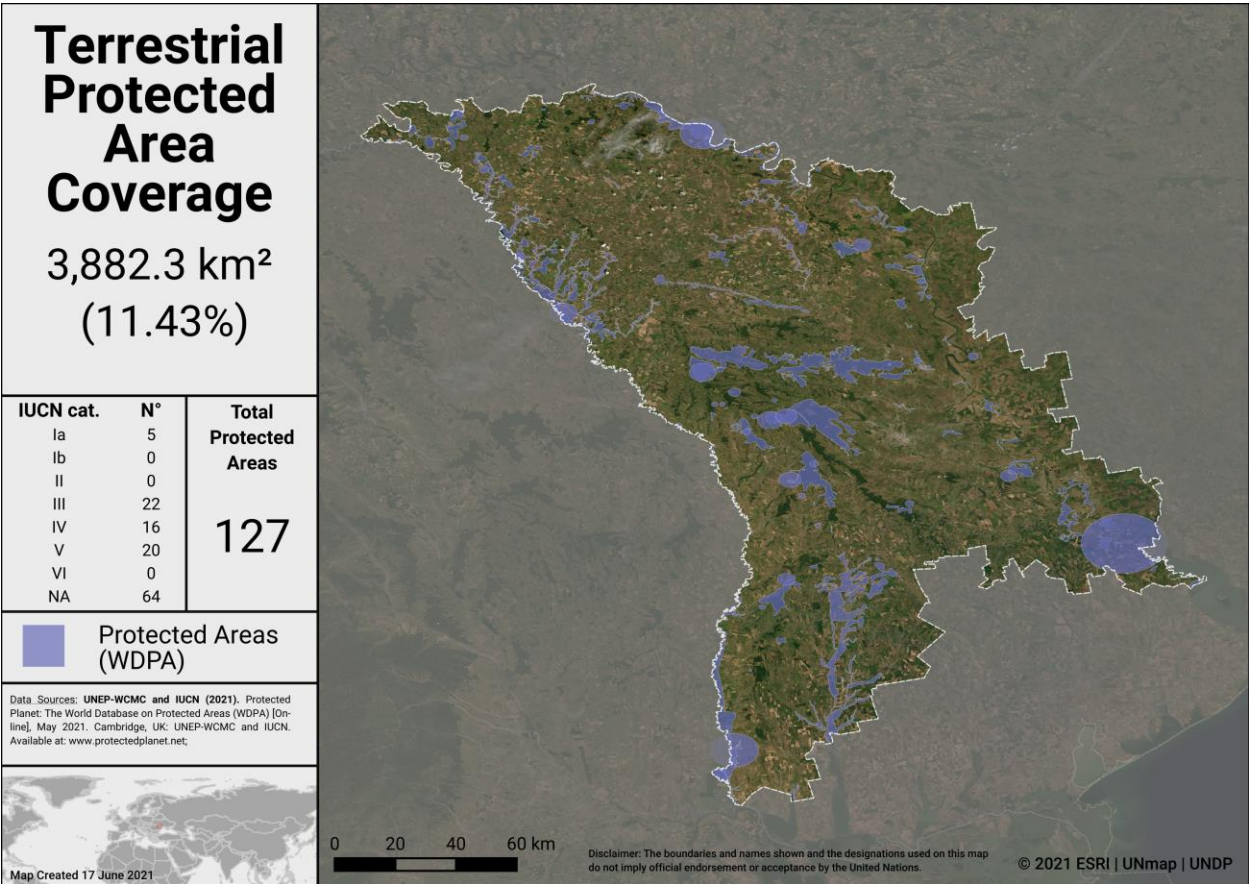
According to official data, the total surface of Natural protected areas (NPA) in the Republic of Moldova is 189.4 thousand ha (5.61% of the country's territory) and includes 312 sites (66 are included in the official IUCN List of Protected Areas).

The Republic of Moldova has:

- 5 scientific reserves (Codrii, Plaiul Fagului, Padurea Domneasca, Prutul de Jos/Lower Prut, and Iagorlic)
- 63 natural reserves
- 41 landscape reserves,
- 3 Ramsar sites and others
- 1 National Park (Orhei)
- 1 Biosphere reserve (Lower Prut)

In 2021, the draft law on amending some normative acts was elaborated, which provides for the creation of the Emerald network on an area of about 277,157 ha (or 8% of the country's territory). The creation of the Emerald Network will ensure the protection of 154 species of plants and wild animals and 38 habitats. The draft law is at the stage of examination by other ministries and institutions.





Terrestrial Protected Areas in Moldova (Republic of) (as reflected in the WDPA)

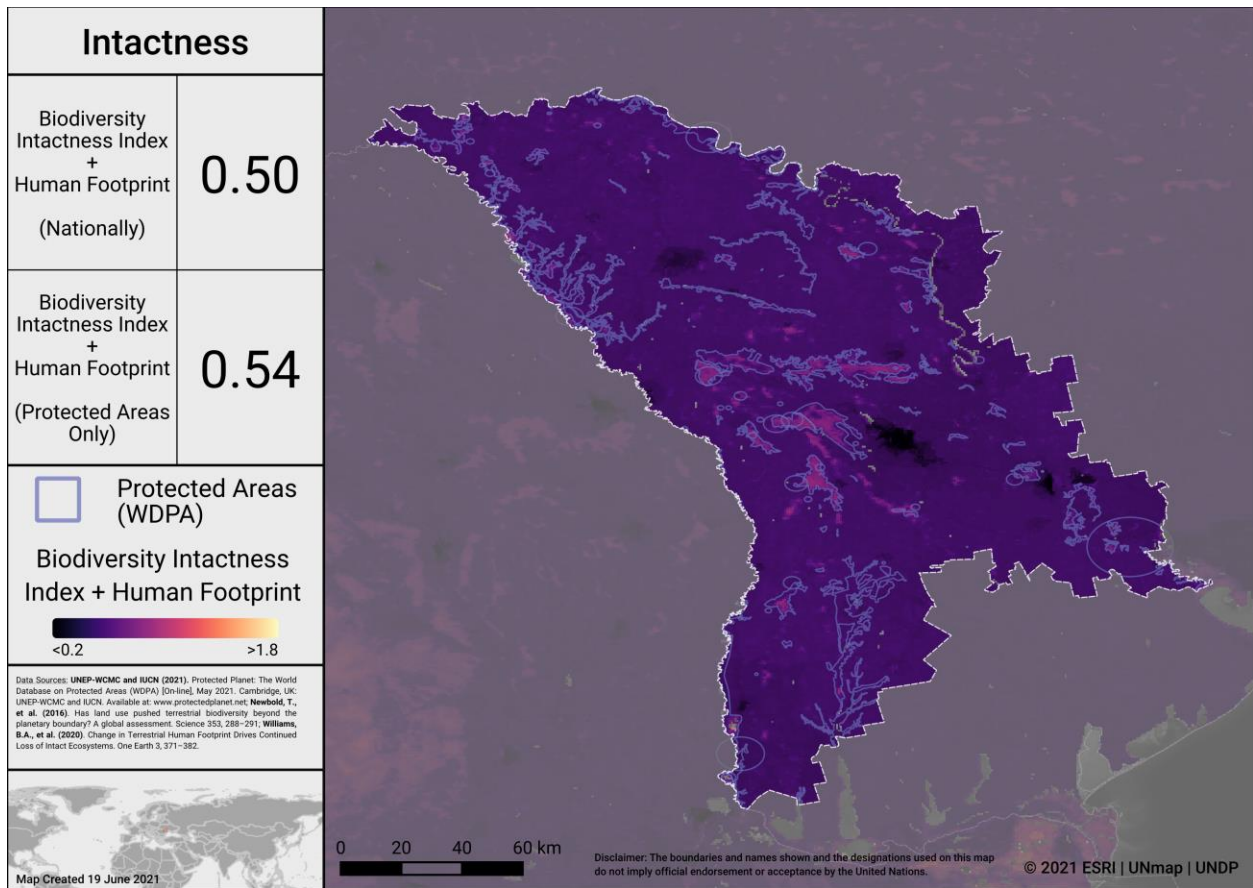
Potential OECMs

There are currently no potential OECM examples for Moldova (Republic of).

Opportunities for action

Opportunities for the near-term include completing the review of spatial data for PAs in Republic of Moldova, and working to update records in the WDPA to reflect the current national status. In the future, as Moldova (Republic of) considers where to add new PAs and OECMs, the map below identifies areas in Moldova (Republic of) 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.

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Intactness in Moldova (Republic of)

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

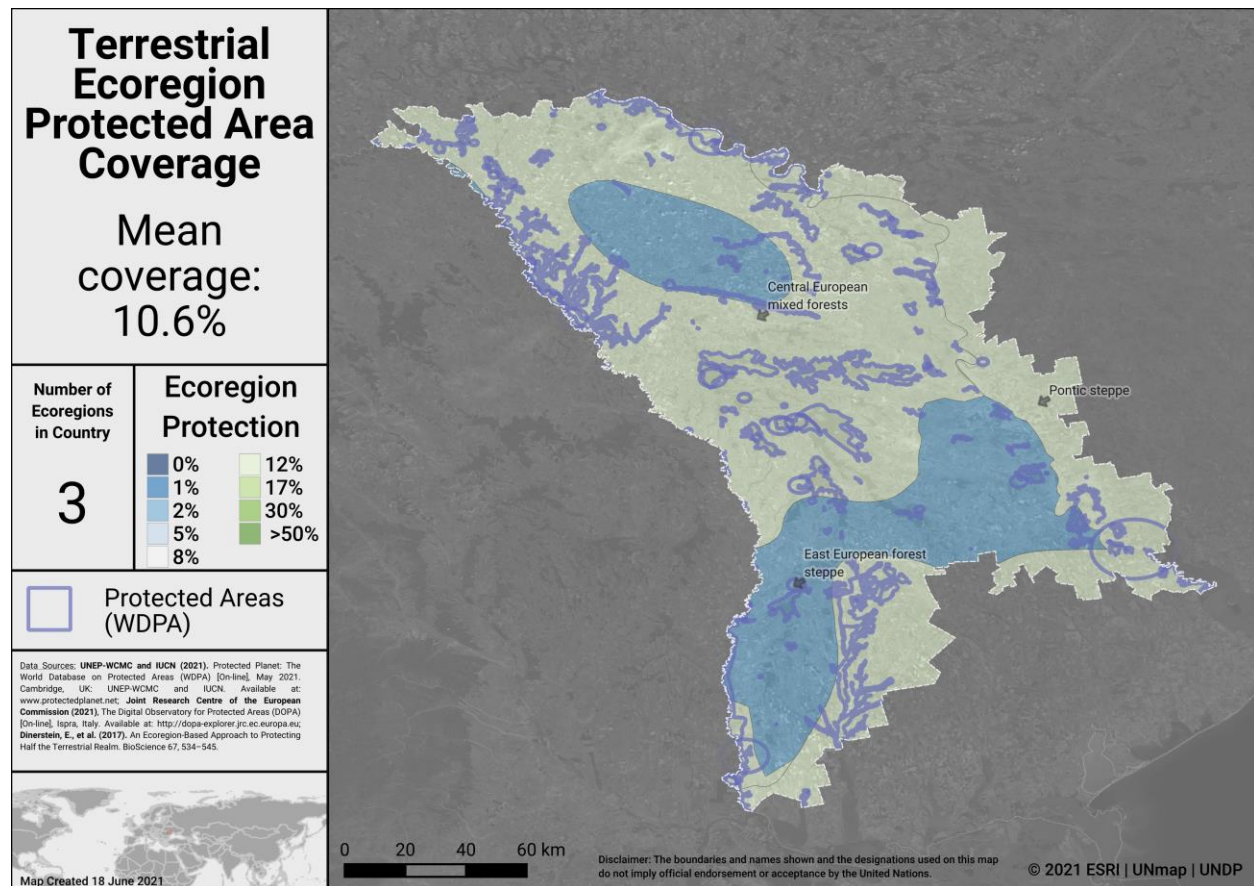
ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS

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).

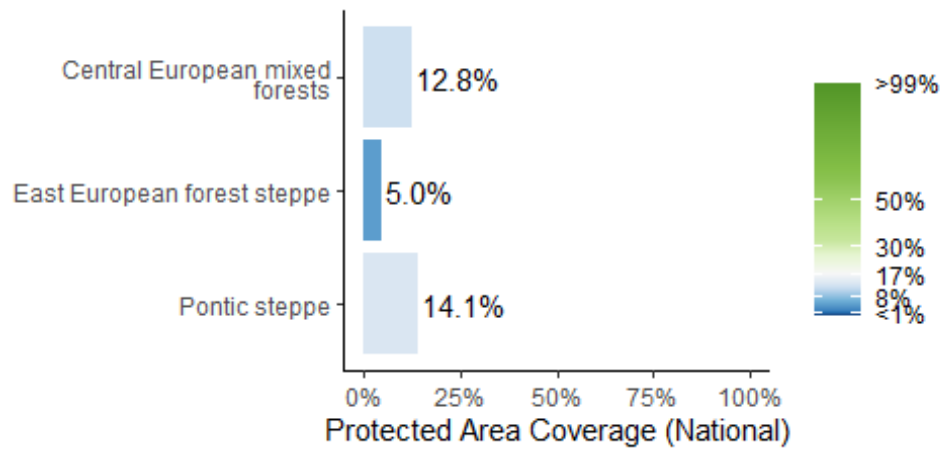
Moldova (Republic of) has 3 **terrestrial** ecoregions. Out of these:

- All 3 ecoregions have at least some coverage from PAs and OECMs.
- 0 ecoregions have at least 17% protected within the country.
- The average terrestrial coverage of ecoregions is 3.8%.

A full list of ecoregions in Moldova (Republic of) is available in Annex I.



Terrestrial ecoregions in Moldova (Republic of)



Terrestrial ecoregions of the World (TEOW) in Moldova (Republic of)

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Moldova (Republic of) to increase protection in terrestrial ecoregions that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs.

AREAS IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY

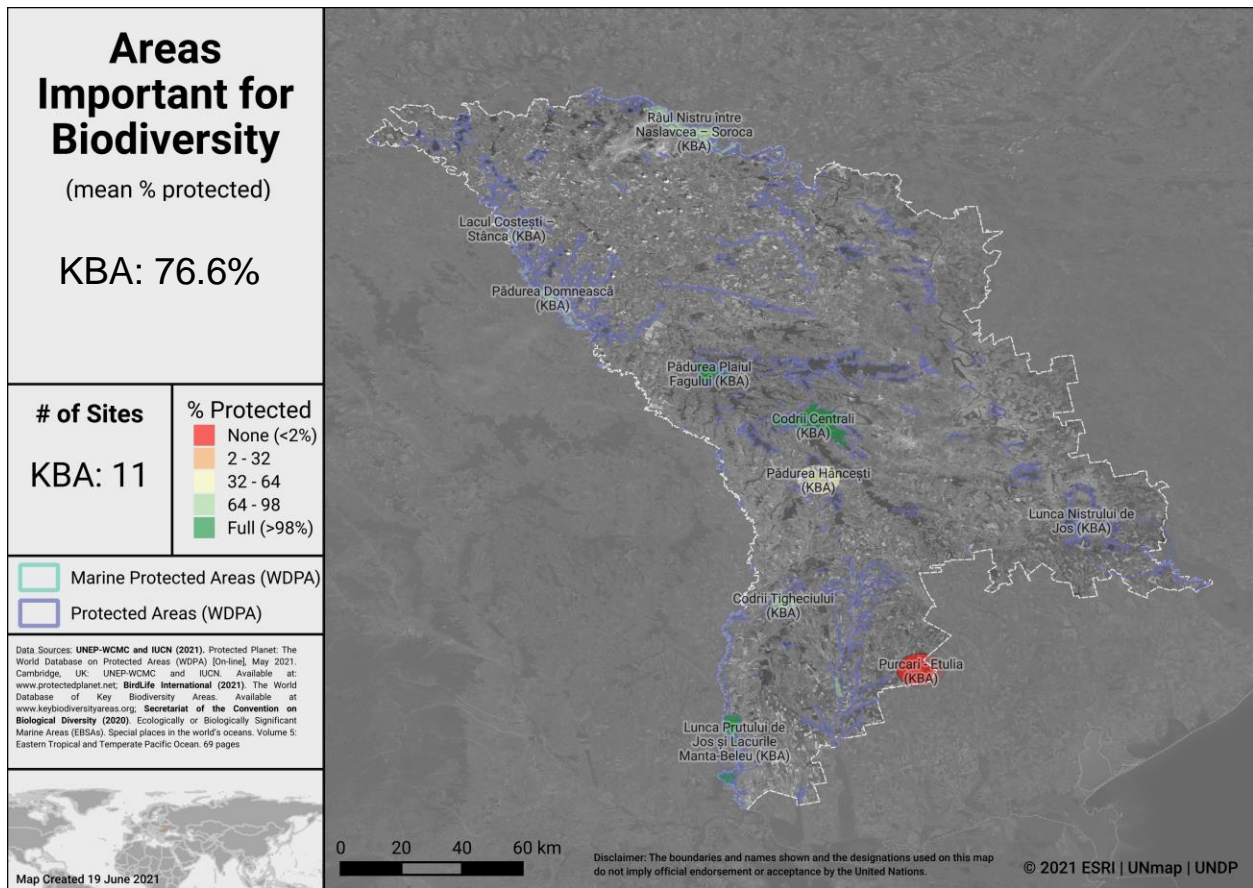
Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

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.

Moldova (Republic of) has **11** Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

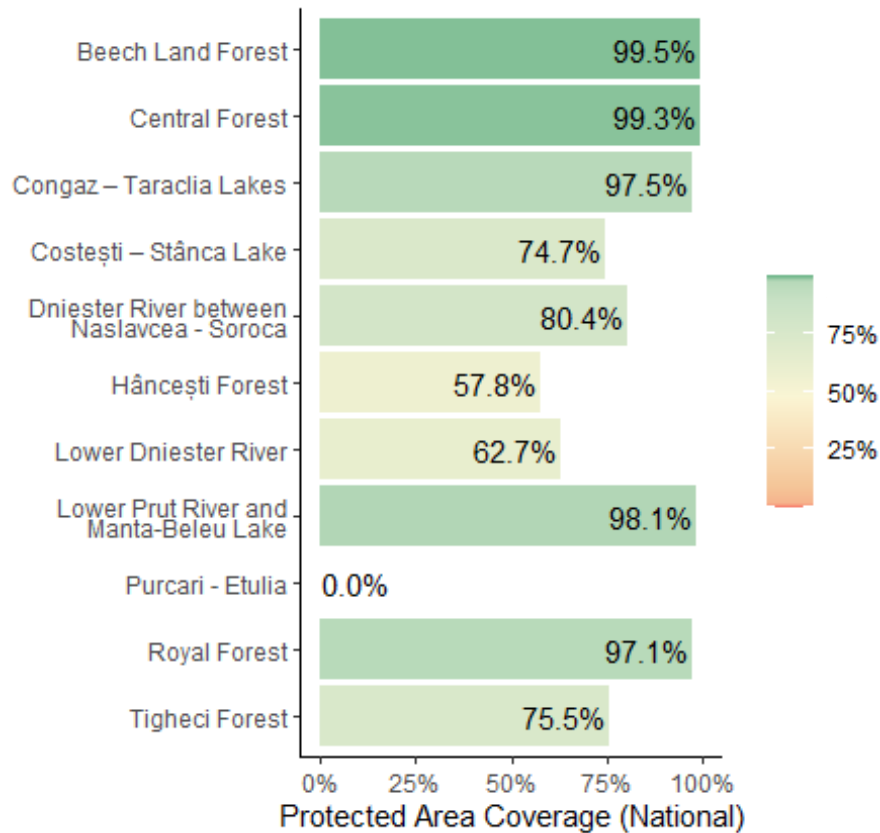
- Mean percent coverage of all KBAs by PAs and OECMs in Moldova (Republic of) is **76.6%**.
- **3** KBAs have full (>98%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **7** KBAs have partial coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **1** KBA has no (<2%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.





Areas Important for Biodiversity in Moldova (Republic of)





Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Moldova (Republic of)

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Moldova (Republic of) to increase protection of KBAs that have lower levels of coverage by PAs and OECMs, and to focus on effective management for those that already have adequate coverage; priority could be given to those with no current coverage.

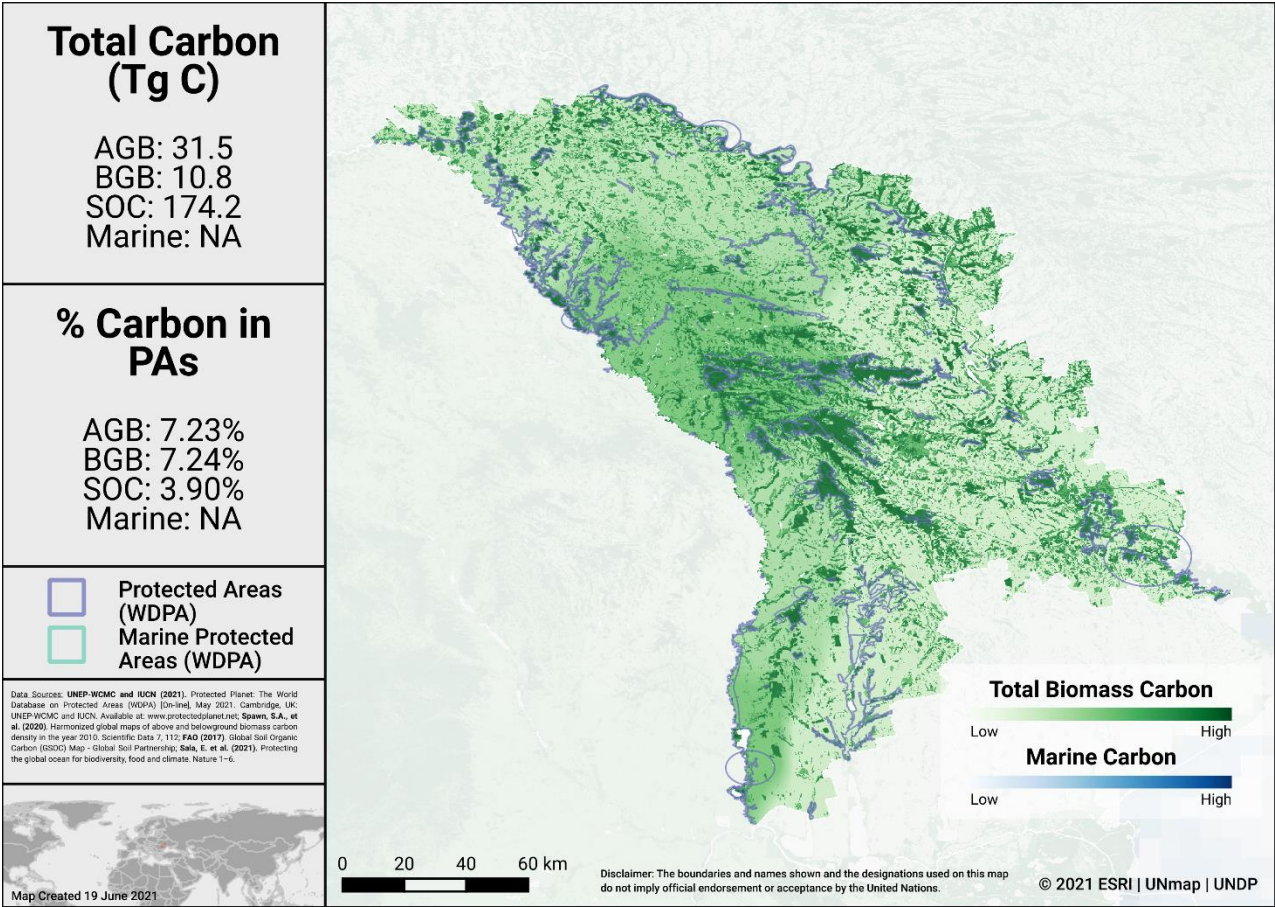
AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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) at a 1-km resolution (see Atwood et al., 2020).

The map below presents the total carbon stocks in Moldova (Republic of) and the percent of carbon in protected areas. The total carbon stocks is 31.5 Tg C from aboveground biomass (AGB), with 7.2% in protected areas; 10.8 Tg C from below ground biomass (BGB), with 7.2% in protected areas and 174.2 Tg C from soil organic carbon (SOC), with 3.9% in protected areas.



Carbon Stocks in Moldova (Republic of)

Water

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 Maldives may similarly depend on protected forest areas within and around water catchments. Intact catchments can support more consistent water supply and improved water quality.

Opportunities for action

For carbon, there is opportunity for Moldova (Republic of) 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, 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 Moldova (Republic of) was 2.1%.

PARC-Connectedness Index

In 2019, as assessed using the PARC-Connectedness Index (values ranging from 0-1, indicating low to high connectivity), connectivity in Moldova (Republic of) is 0.23. This represents an increase from 0.22 in 2010.

Corridor case studies

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

Integration into the wider landscape

Starting in 2016, the Institute of Ecology and Geography has implemented the Project (15.817.02.21A) on the "Integrated assessment of anthropogenic impact on representative ecosystems in order to conserve and expand state protected natural areas (SNPA) in the context of the requirements of EU Directives".

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for a general increase in PA or OECM cover 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 Moldova (Republic of) reported in the WDPA have the following governance types:

- 48.0% 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
- 52.0% **do not** report a governance type

OECMs

As of May 2021, there are **0** OECMs in Moldova (Republic of) 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 Moldova (Republic of) (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 Moldova (Republic of) (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 Moldova (Republic of) (see Garnett et al 2018 for details).

Opportunities for action

Increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 52.0% of sites that do not have their governance type reported. If applicable, explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation

There is also opportunity for Moldova (Republic of) 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.

Protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessments

As of May 2021, Moldova (Republic of) has 127 PAs reported in the WDPA; of these PAs, 7 (10.6%) have management effectiveness evaluations reported in the global database on protected area management effectiveness (GD-PAME).

- 2.9% (977 km²) of the terrestrial area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
 - 69.3% 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 Moldova (Republic of) 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** 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.



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/>

The following actions were identified during the workshops:

Terrestrial coverage:

- 1) Ensuring the extension of state protected natural areas to up to 8% of the surface area of the country
- 2) Establish a wetland area of international importance (Ramsar) “Domneasca” in the Middle Prut area
- 3) Establish the tri-party Biosphere Reservation “Danube Delta – Lower Prut” (Romania-Republic of Moldova-Ukraine)
- 4) Establish the National Park “Lower Nistru”
- 5) Create the “Emerald” network as a component part of the Pan-European Ecological Network.

Ecological representation: Ensuring the extension of state protected natural areas to up to 8% of the surface area of the country.

Areas Important for biodiversity and ecosystem services: In order to extend and create areas with forest vegetation and to create the ecological network, documents and policies have been elaborated, the main of which are: the National Programme for the Creation of the National Ecological Network for 2011-2018; and the National Plan on Extending of Forest Vegetation Areas for 2013- 2018.

Connectivity: The ecologic network “Emerald” (a European ecological network launched in 1998 by the Council of Europe), which is in the process of establishment, shall include 18 sites that will cover state protected natural areas and other land with valuable habitats, with an approximate area of about 10% of the territory of the country.

Management effectiveness:

- 1) Strengthen management capacities of the National Park “Orhei”



- 2) Develop 44 management plans for protected areas
- 3) Develop management plans for ecosystems and plant and animal species of community interest
- 4) Develop plans for the management of Nistru and Danube-Prut hydrographic basins and the Black Sea
- 5) Develop 2 projects for local communities based on sustainable management of plant resources (energy, medicinal, feed, essential and oleaginous oils etc.)
- 6) Develop programs and continuous professional development courses in the public and private sectors on matters related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of state protected natural areas.

Governance and Equity:

- 1) Develop and promote new language for the Law on state protected natural areas adjusted to the provisions of international treaties
- 2) Develop and promote the draft Law on habitats (by harmonizing it with the Council Directive 92/43/CEE of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora)
- 3) Establish administrative units for some categories of state protected natural areas
- 4) Establish a Biodiversity, Biosafety and Protected Areas Department as part of the central environmental protection authority.

Integration:

- 1) Step 1: Analysis of existing system of incentives and restrictions.
- 2) Step 2: Development of a mechanism for economic stimulation given a need to involve a spatial planning mechanism into sectorial planning.
- 3) Step 3: Public hearings (also to increase public awareness).
- 4) Step 4: Development of relevant recommendations for legislation.
- 5) Step 5: Infrastructure development given above mentioned.

OECSs:

- 1) Evaluation of species and habitats proposed to be included in Emerald Network
- 2) Creation of the database on species and habitats, according to the Bern Convention
- 3) Improving the legal framework by harmonising it to the international practice (especially to the neighbouring European Union countries – Habitat and Birds Directives) according to the Association agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union.



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

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

B1. Ensuring the extension of state protected natural areas to up to 8% of the surface area of the country, establishing a national ecological network and develop 44 management plans for protected natural areas

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

NBSAP Action number	Action (original language from NBSAP)
1.1.1	Develop and promote new language for the Law on state protected natural areas adjusted to the provisions of international treaties
1.1.2	Develop and promote the draft Law on habitats (by harmonizing it with the Council Directive 92/43/CEE of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora)
1.2.16	Establish a Biodiversity, Biosafety and Protected Areas Department as part of the central environmental protection authority
2.1.26	Strengthen management capacities of the National Park “Orhei”
2.1.27	Establish a wetland area of international importance (Ramsar) “Domneasca” in the Middle Prut area
2.1.29	Establish the National Park “Lower Nistru”
2.1.30	Create the “Emerald” network as a component part of the Pan-European Ecological Network
2.1.31	Develop the cadaster of state protected natural areas
2.1.32	Develop and promote the program of extending the system of protected areas
2.1.33	Develop management plans for protected areas
2.2.38	Develop management plans for ecosystems and plant and animal species of community interest
3.1.54	Develop a study on the relationship between ecosystems, biodiversity and climate change in Republic of Moldova
5.2.91	Develop programs and continuous professional development courses in the public and private sectors on matters related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of state protected natural areas

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).

GEF ID	PA increase?	Area to be added (km ²)	Qualitative elements potentially benefitting (based on keyword search of PIFs)
5355	No	N/A	All except Ecologically representative and Equitably managed

OTHER ACTIONS/COMMITMENTS

Leaders’ Pledge for Nature

Moldova (Republic of) **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.



ANNEX I

FULL LIST OF TERRESTRIAL ECOREGIONS

Ecoregion Name	Area (km²)	% of Global Ecoregion in Country	% of Country in Ecoregion	Area Protected (km²)	% Protected in Country
Central European mixed forests	16,659.1	2.3	49.2	2,124.2	12.8
East European forest steppe	9,693.9	1.3	28.6	480.1	5.0
Pontic steppe	7,500.7	0.8	22.2	1,056.2	14.1



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This document was created using the knitr package with R version 4.0.5.

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