



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



# Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: ARMENIA

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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</i> .....	11
<i>ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS</i> .....	14
<i>AREAS IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY</i> .....	17
<i>AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES</i> .....	20
<i>CONNECTIVITY &amp; INTEGRATION</i> .....	22
<i>GOVERNANCE DIVERSITY</i> .....	23
<i>PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS</i> .....	24
<b>SECTION II: EXISTING PROTECTED AREA AND OECM COMMITMENTS</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<i>NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)</i> .....	26
<i>APPROVED GEF-5, GEF-6, &amp; GCF PROTECTED AREA PROJECTS</i> .....	27
<i>OTHER ACTIONS/COMMITMENTS</i> .....	28
<b>ANNEX I</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<i>FULL LIST OF ECOREGIONS</i> .....	29
<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>30</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: ARMENIA

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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

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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. Where available, data from national statistics for the elements of Target 11 are included alongside records from these global databases. These statistics might differ from those reported officially by countries due to difference 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. 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 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

- **Status:** as of May 2021, terrestrial coverage in Armenia reported in the WDPA is 7,215.2 km<sup>2</sup> (24.3%); Armenia reports total coverage of Specially Protected Nature Areas >3,870 km<sup>2</sup> (~13.1%) [which excludes 1 privately protected area and 3 Ramsar sites].
- **Opportunities for action:** opportunities for the near-term include updating the WDPA with any unreported PAs (work is already underway), and the recognizing and reporting OECMs to the WD-OECM. In the future, focus on relatively intact areas, while addressing the elements in the following sections, could be considered if planning new PAs or OECMs.

#### Ecological Representativeness

- **Status:** Armenia contains 3 terrestrial ecoregions: the mean protected coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 16.1%; 1 terrestrial ecoregion has no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs (but covers <1 km<sup>2</sup> of Armenia). About 60-70% of the country's flora and fauna species composition are represented in protected areas, including 82.5% of RA Red-listed pileated fungi, 36.7% of RA Red-listed higher plant



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

species, 61.3% of RA Red-listed invertebrate species, and 61.3% of RA Red-listed vertebrate species.

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Armenia to focus on effective management for ecoregions that already have higher coverage, and for PAs with high levels of endangered species coverage.

### Areas Important for Biodiversity

- **Status:** Armenia has 28 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): the mean protected coverage of KBAs by reported PAs and OECMs is 22.6%, while 14 KBAs have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Armenia 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 Armenia, 23.0% of aboveground biomass carbon, 26.6% of belowground biomass carbon, 20.8% of soil organic carbon is covered by PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** for carbon, there is opportunity for Armenia 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 22.5%.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity 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 Armenia is: 2.8% under Private (Non-profit organisations).



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

- **Opportunities for action:** increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 97.2% 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 Armenia 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:** 47.8% 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

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

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](#), 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 WDPA 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, Armenia has **36** protected areas reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

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

Current coverage for Armenia (reported in the WDPA):

- 24.3% terrestrial (36 protected areas, 7,215.2 km<sup>2</sup>)

Armenia recognizes 4 categories of SPNAs (Specially Protected Nature Areas): currently, there are **3** state reserves, **4** national parks, **27** state sanctuaries, and **232** natural monuments<sup>1</sup>, from which 32 have their passports.

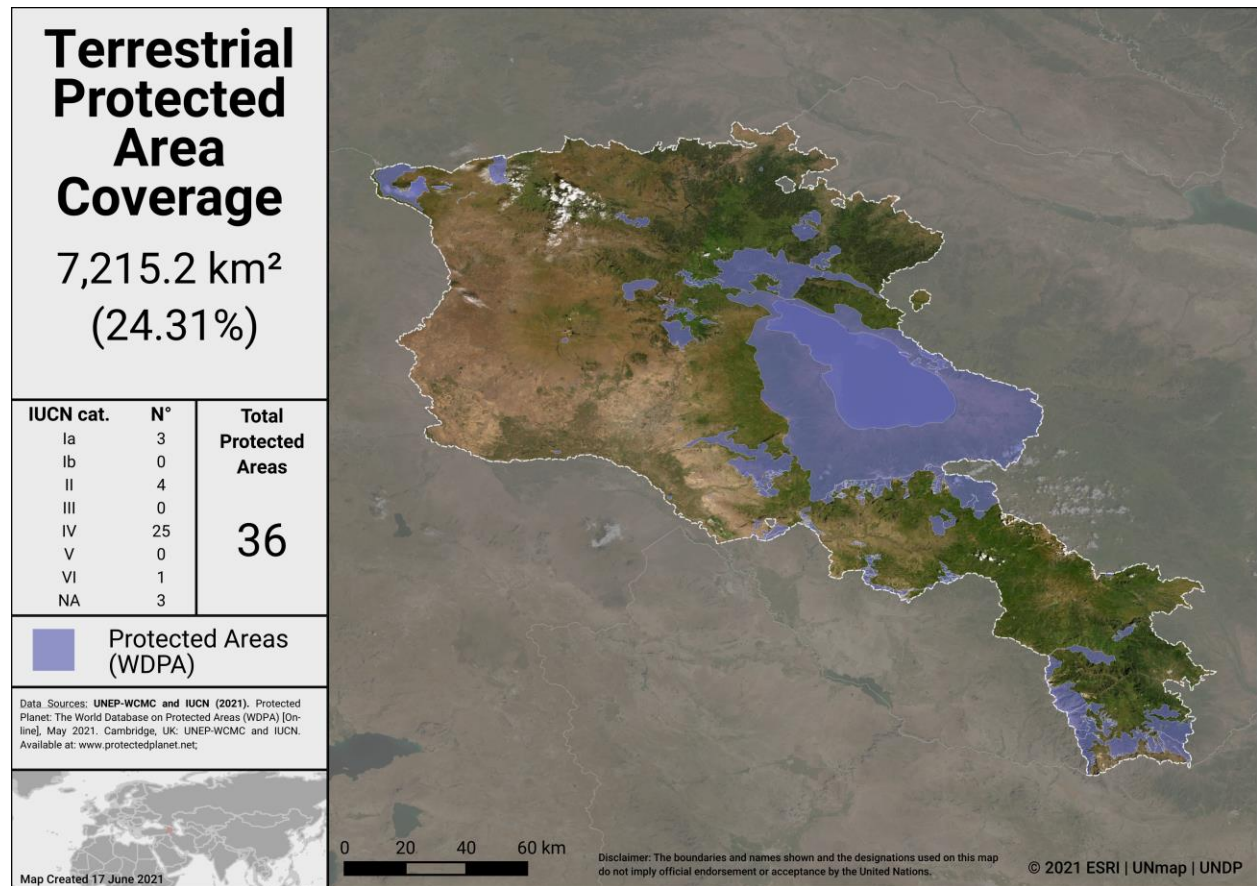
Over the last decade, the total area of SPNAs in Armenia has grown by ~80,000 ha, and currently accounts for >387,000 ha (~13.1%) of the total territory of the Republic [this excludes 1 privately protected area, as Armenia “does not have such a category of protected area and it does not have legal status” and also Ramsar sites]. For further details, see Ministry of Environment of Armenia, 2021.

Two state sanctuaries (Khustup, and Yeghegnadzor State Sanctuary) are currently missing from the WDPA; for a few other sites, the reported area needs to be updated. These updates are in progress. Armenia has been working with UNEP-WCMC regarding the necessary updates to the WDPA.

This may impact some of the statistics in the following sections.

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<sup>1</sup> The list of Armenia’s nature monuments was approved by RA Government decree № 967-N dated August 14, 2008 which includes 230 nature monuments. Given the circumstances that the rich diversity of living and inanimate natural objects and complexes existing in the territory of Armenia was not fully represented in the list, buffer zones of nature monuments are not mapped and adjusted, lands are not demarcated, nature monuments do not have passports envisaged by RA law, the program on “Replenishment of approved list of nature monuments in RA Lori and Tavush marzes/regions, adjustment of buffer zones, land demarcation and mapping program works” was included within 2012 state budget in the implementation of which new list of Armenia’s nature monuments was approved by RA Government decree № 473-N dated May 2, 2013- 232 names and the passport of “Trchkan” waterfall was approved by the order of the Minister of Nature Protection. At present 106 nature monuments are considered as geological, 46-hydrogeological, 40-hydrographic, 17 natural-historic and 21 as biological.



Terrestrial Protected Areas in Armenia (based on the May 2021 WDPA; as noted above, there are still updates required to align this data with Armenia’s national status)

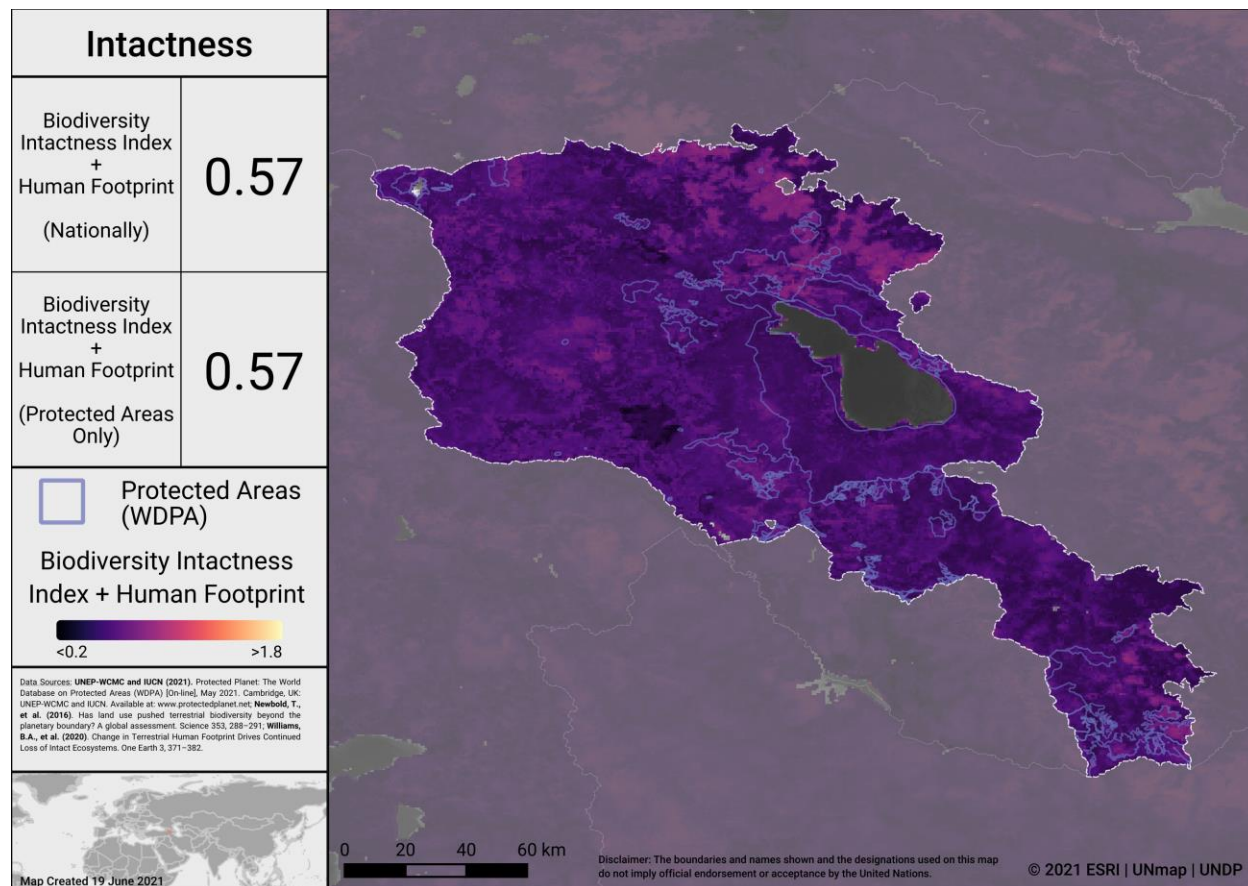
### Potential OECMs

There are currently no potential OECM examples available for Armenia.

### Opportunities for action

Opportunities for the near-term include updating the WDPA with any unreported PAs (work is already underway), and the recognizing and reporting OECMs to the WD-OECM. In the future, as Armenia considers where to add new PAs and OECMs, the map below identifies areas in Armenia 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.

# 13 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: ARMENIA



Intactness in Armenia

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

## ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS

Ecological representativeness is often assessed based on the PAs and OECMs coverage of broad-scale biogeographic units (though other approaches are available: see information on endangered species representation below). 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).

### Representation: Species and genes

About 60-70% of the country's flora and fauna species composition are represented in protected areas (SPNA; specially protected nature areas), including most of the rare, endangered, threatened and endemic species as well as wild genetic resources.

This includes:

- 33 out of 40 (82.5%) species of the RA Red-listed pileated fungi
- 166 out of 452 (36.7%) RA Red-listed higher plant species
- 95 out of 155 (61.3%) RA Red-listed invertebrate species
- 96 out of 153 (61.3%) RA Red-listed vertebrate species are represented in SPNAs.

For further details, see Ministry of Environment of Armenia, 2021.

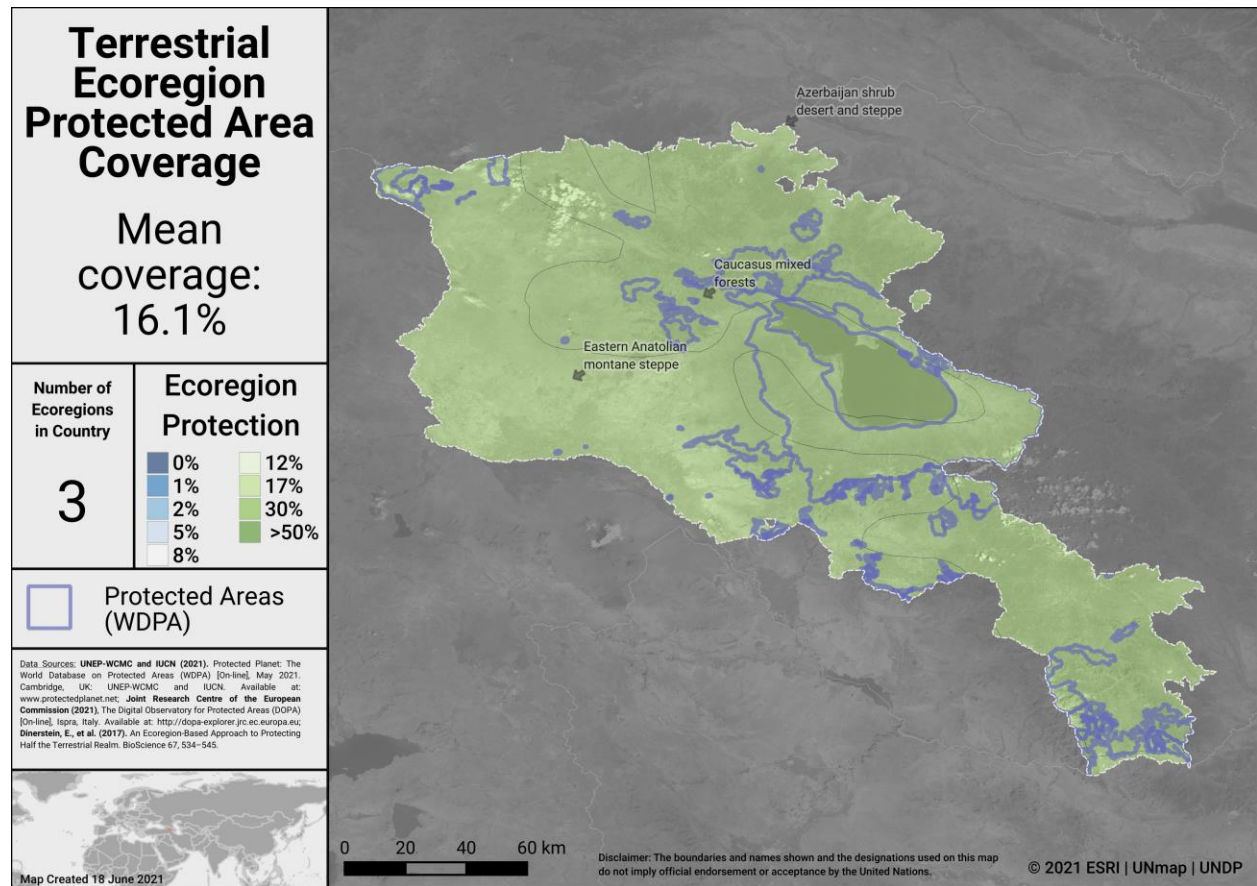
### Representation: Ecoregions

Armenia has 3 **terrestrial** ecoregions. Out of these:

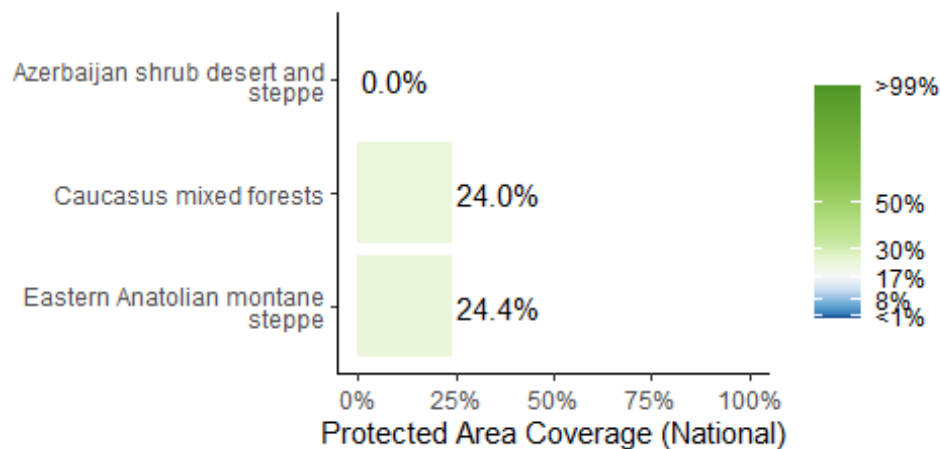
- 2 ecoregions have at least some coverage from PAs and OECMs.
  - Remaining ecoregion covers <1 km<sup>2</sup> of Armenia
- 2 ecoregions have at least 17% protected within the country.
- The average terrestrial coverage of ecoregions is 16.1%.

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





Terrestrial ecoregions in Armenia (coverage may increase as PA data is updated in the WDPA; see previous section).



Terrestrial ecoregions of the World (TEOW) in Armenia



Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Armenia to focus on effective management for ecoregions that already have higher coverage.





## AREAS IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY

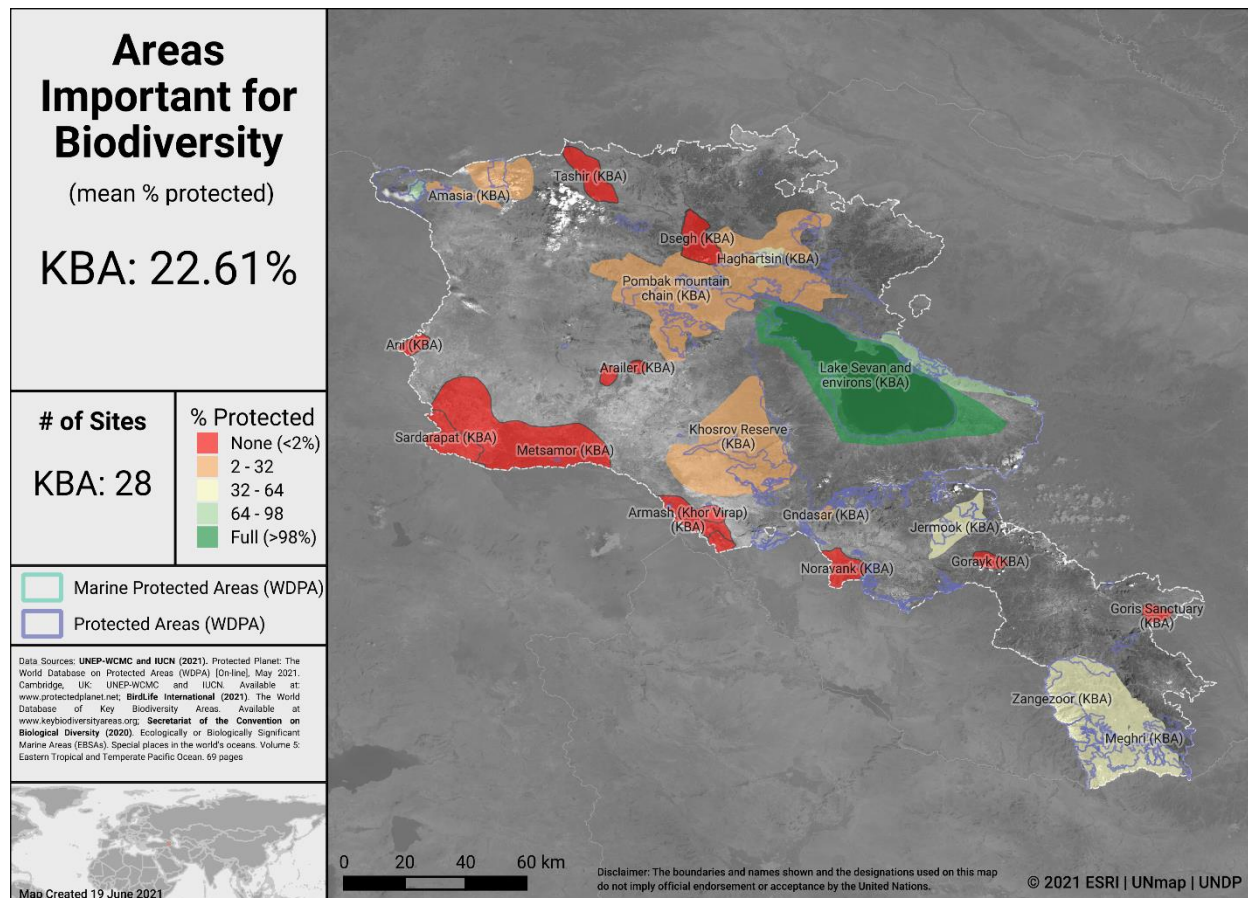
### Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

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

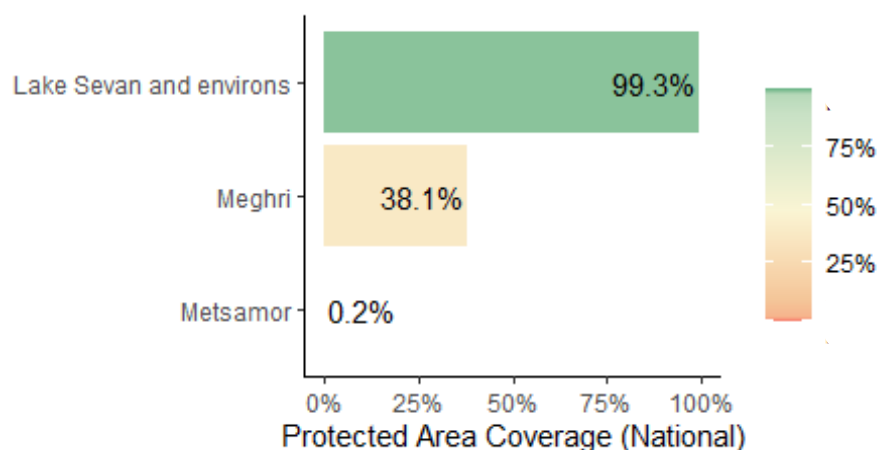
Armenia has **28** Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

- Mean percent coverage of all KBAs by PAs and OECMs in Armenia is **22.6%**.
- **1** KBA has full (>98%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **13** KBAs have partial coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **14** KBAs have no (<2%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.



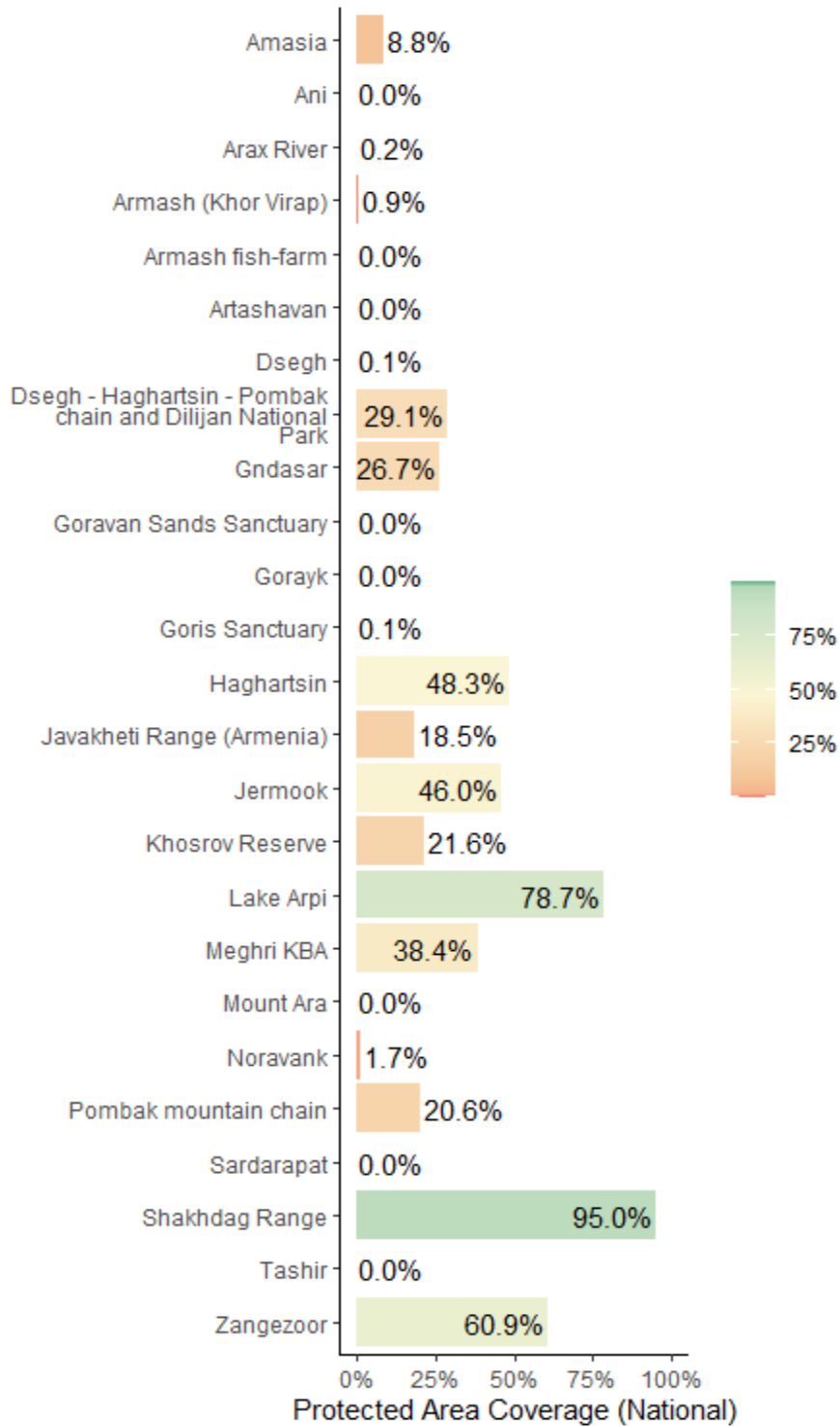


Areas Important for Biodiversity in Armenia



Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Armenia

## 19 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: ARMENIA



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

### Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Armenia 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.

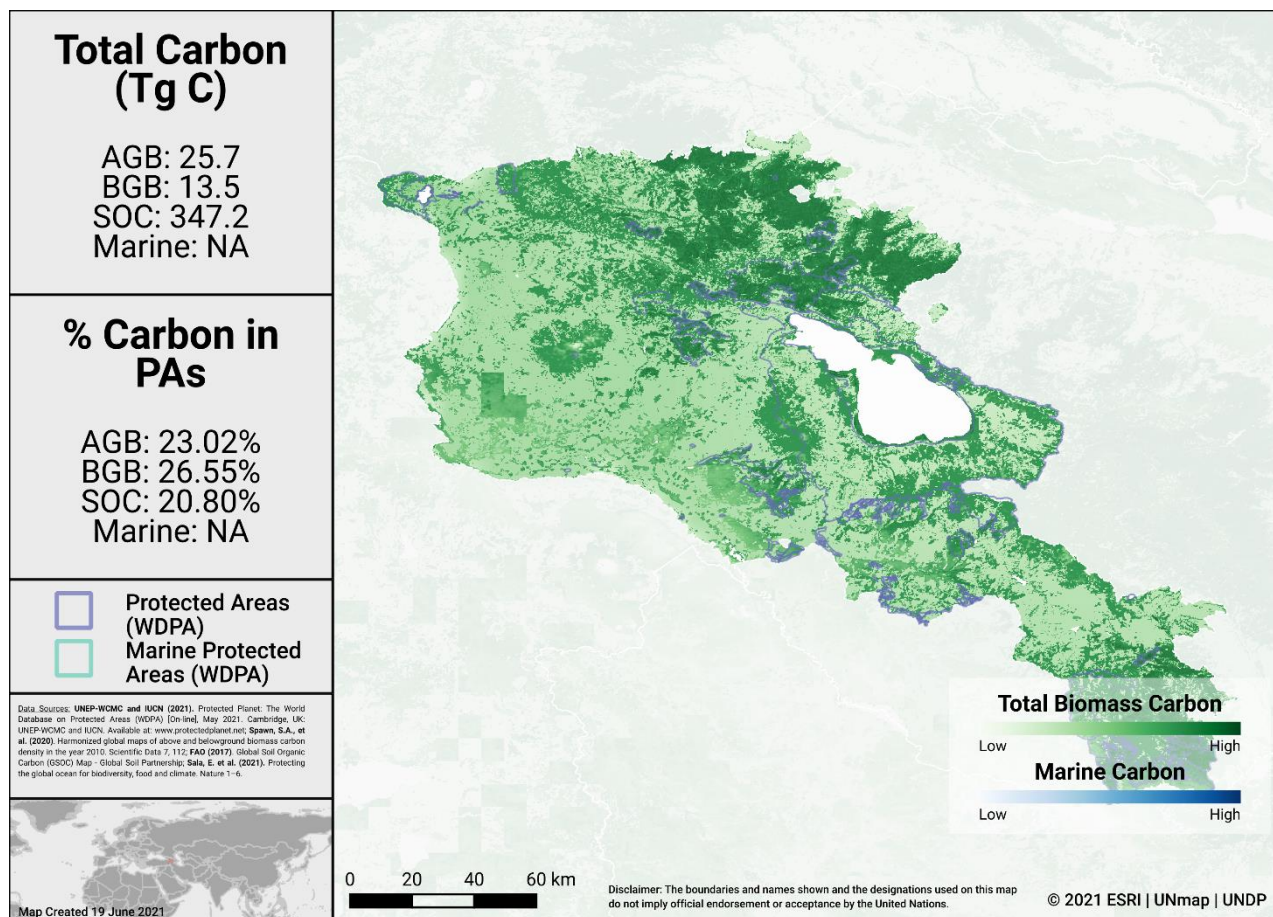
## AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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 Armenia and the percent of carbon in protected areas. The total carbon stocks is 25.7 Tg C from aboveground biomass (AGB), with 23.0% in protected areas; 13.5 Tg C from below ground biomass (BGB), with 26.6% in protected areas; 347.2 Tg C from soil organic carbon (SOC), with 20.8% in protected areas.



Carbon Stocks in Armenia

### Water

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 Armenia 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 Armenia to increase PA and OECM coverage terrestrial areas with high carbon stocks, as identified in the map above. Protecting areas with high carbon stocks secures the benefits of carbon sequestration in the area.

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



## CONNECTIVITY & INTEGRATION

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

### Protected Connected Land Indicator (Prot-Conn)

As of January 2021, as reported in the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission's Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) (JRC, 2021), the coverage of protected-connected lands (a measure of the connectivity of terrestrial protected area networks, assessed using the ProtConn indicator) in Armenia was 22.5%.

### PARC-Connectedness Index

In 2019, as assessed using the PARC-Connectedness Index (values ranging from 0-1, indicating low to high connectivity), connectivity in Armenia is 0.32. This represents no significant change since 2010.

### Corridor case studies

There are no corridor case studies available for Armenia (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.

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

- 0.0% are governed by **governments**
- 0.0% are under **shared** governance
- 2.8% are under **private** governance (by non-profit organisations)
- 0.0% are under **IPLC** governance
- 97.2% **do not** report a governance type

### OECMs

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

### Opportunities for action

Increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 97.2% 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 Armenia 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 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 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, Armenia has 36 PAs reported in the WDPA; of these PAs, 29 (80.6%) have management effectiveness evaluations reported in the global database on protected area management effectiveness (GD-PAME).

- 11.6% (3,445 km<sup>2</sup>) of the terrestrial area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
  - 47.8% 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 Armenia reported in the WD-OECM and no information available on the management effectiveness of potential OECMs.

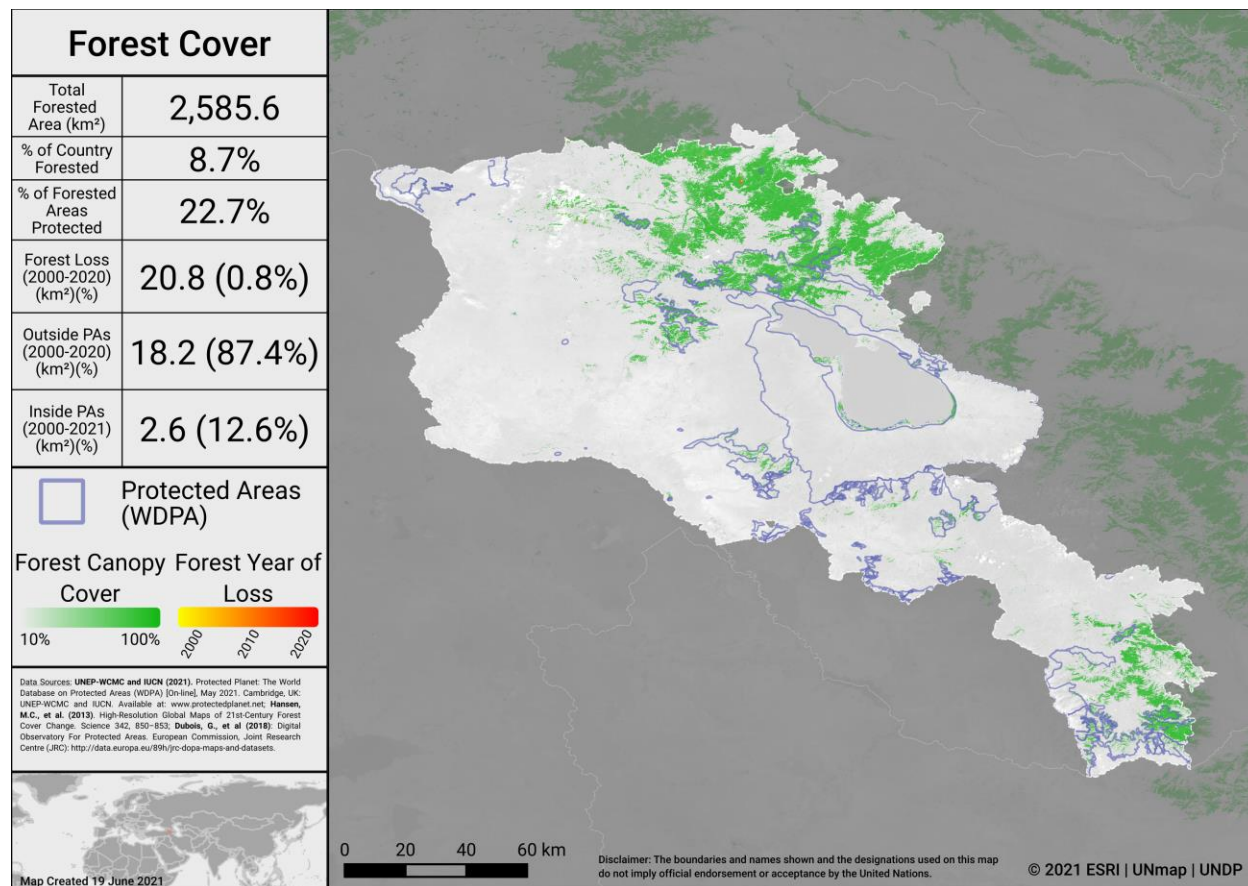
### Changes in forest cover in protected areas and OECMs

Forest ecosystems in the SPNAs (specially protected nature areas) of Armenia account for 110,269.2 ha which makes 28.5% of SPNAs in the country.

Forested areas in Armenia cover approximately 8.7% of the country, an area of 2,585.6 km<sup>2</sup>. Approximately 22.7% (587.5 km<sup>2</sup>) of this is within the protected area estate of Armenia (based on the May 2021 WDPA release). Over the period 2000-2020 loss of forest cover amounted to over 20.8 km<sup>2</sup>, or 0.1% of the country, of which 2.6 km<sup>2</sup> (12.6% of forest loss) occurred within protected areas. The map below shows how forest cover has changed in Armenia from 2000-2020 both inside and outside of PAs. This can indicate how effective PAs are in reducing forest cover loss.







### Forest Cover and Forest Loss in Armenia

#### 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 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 OECD COMMITMENTS

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### NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

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

*Activity 2.3 Continue inventory of Important Bird Areas, Important Plant Areas as well as Ramsar sites important for biodiversity conservation.*

- Aim is to: provide reliable information for establishment of SPNAs and Econet.

Other actions from the NBSAP will also address elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11:

<b>NBSAP Action number</b>	<b>Action (original language from NBSAP)</b>
1.3	Develop draft protocol decision of the RA Government on national criteria for forests with high conservation values in Armenia
2.2	Carry out vulnerability assessment for rare ecosystems of Armenia given the predicted climate change, including modelling of changes.



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

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

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

GEF ID	PA increase?	Area to be added (km <sup>2</sup> )	Type of new protected area	Qualitative elements potentially benefitting (based on keyword search of PIFs)
5353	No	N/A	N/A	Ecosystem services; Effectively managed; Equitably managed; Connectivity

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

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

GCF ID	Project theme	Result area	Target 11 element
SAP014	Cross-cutting	Forest and land use	Integration into the wider landscape



## OTHER ACTIONS/COMMITMENTS

### Leaders' Pledge for Nature

Armenia **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.

### High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

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

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

### Global Ocean Alliance

Armenia **has** joined the Global Ocean Alliance: 30by30 initiative.

The Global Ocean Alliance 30by30 is a UK led initiative [currently containing 53 countries as signatories]. Its aim is to protect at least 30% of the global ocean as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) by 2030.



## ANNEX I

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### FULL LIST OF 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	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Caucasus mixed forests	15,424.0	9.0	51.9	3,697.6	24.0
Eastern Anatolian montane steppe	14,290.4	8.5	48.1	3,490.7	24.4



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## 33 | Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: ARMENIA

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