



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



# Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: URUGUAY

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## 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



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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 [WDPA](#)), terrestrial coverage in Uruguay is 6,556.8 km<sup>2</sup> (3.7%) and marine coverage is 978.9 km<sup>2</sup> (0.8%); according to National reporting, 1% of terrestrial area and 1% of marine area are covered by PAs within Uruguay's SNAP (*Sistema nacional de áreas naturales protegidas de Uruguay*; National System of Protected Natural Areas of Uruguay).
- **Opportunities for action:** opportunities for the near-term include updating the [WDPA](#) with any unreported PAs (already in progress), 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:** Uruguay contains 4 terrestrial ecoregions, 3 marine ecoregions, and 1 pelagic province: the mean coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 21.0% (terrestrial), 1.0% (marine), and 0.0% (pelagic); 1 terrestrial ecoregion, 1 marine ecoregion, and 1 pelagic province have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs. Uruguay's SNAP [national system of PAs] also covers: 42% of priority species for

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conservation, 52% of threatened ecosystems, 100% of landscape units and national eco-regions, and 80% of species vulnerable to climate change.

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Uruguay 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

- **Status:** Uruguay has 22 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): the mean protected coverage of KBAs by reported PAs and OECMs is 23.4%, while 11 KBAs have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Uruguay 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 Uruguay, 13.1% of aboveground biomass carbon, 8.0% of belowground biomass carbon, and 2.0% of carbon stored in marine sediments is covered by PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** for carbon, there is opportunity for Uruguay 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, and to focus on effective management for these areas. Protecting the current area of forested land and potentially reforesting would have benefits for improving water security. Continue implementation of the Action Plan for the Santa Lucía River Basin that supplies the capital and metropolitan area with drinking water.

### Connectivity and Integration

- **Status:** coverage of protected-connected lands is 2.5%.
- **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. 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).





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### Governance Diversity

- **Status:** the most common governance type(s) for reported PAs in Uruguay is: 40.9% under Shared (Collaborative governance) [however, some PAs currently have an incorrect governance type reported]
- **Opportunities for action:** governance types for each PA will need to be updated. If applicable, explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation.
- There is also opportunity for Uruguay 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:** 100% of protected areas in the SNAP [national system of PAs] have completed management effectiveness evaluations (59% of nationally designated PAs have completed evaluations currently reported in the GD-PAME).
- **Opportunities for action:** METT assessments performed in 2015 and 2019 will be reported to the GD-PAME.
- 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 Uruguay. Section I of the dossier presents data on the current status of Uruguay’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 Uruguay, in relation to each Target 11 element. The analyses present options for improving Uruguay’s area-based conservation network to achieve enhanced protection and benefits for livelihoods and climate change. Section II presents details on Uruguay’s existing PA and OECM commitments as a summary of existing efforts towards achieving Target 11. This gives focus not only to national policy and actions but also voluntary commitments to the UN. Furthermore, where data is available, this dossier provides information on potential OECMs, Indigenous and Community



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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 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

As of May 2021, Uruguay has **22** protected areas reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). 2 UNESCO Biosphere reserves are not included in the following statistics (see details on UNWP-WCMCs methods for calculating PA and OECM coverage [here](#)).

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

Current coverage for Uruguay (from the WDPA):

- 3.7% terrestrial (19 protected areas, 6,556.8 km<sup>2</sup>)
- 0.8% marine (6 protected areas, 978.9 km<sup>2</sup>)

According to Uruguay's national records, SNAP [*Sistema nacional de áreas naturales protegidas de Uruguay*; National System of Protected Natural Areas of Uruguay] covers:

- 1% of terrestrial area and 1% of the sea surface.

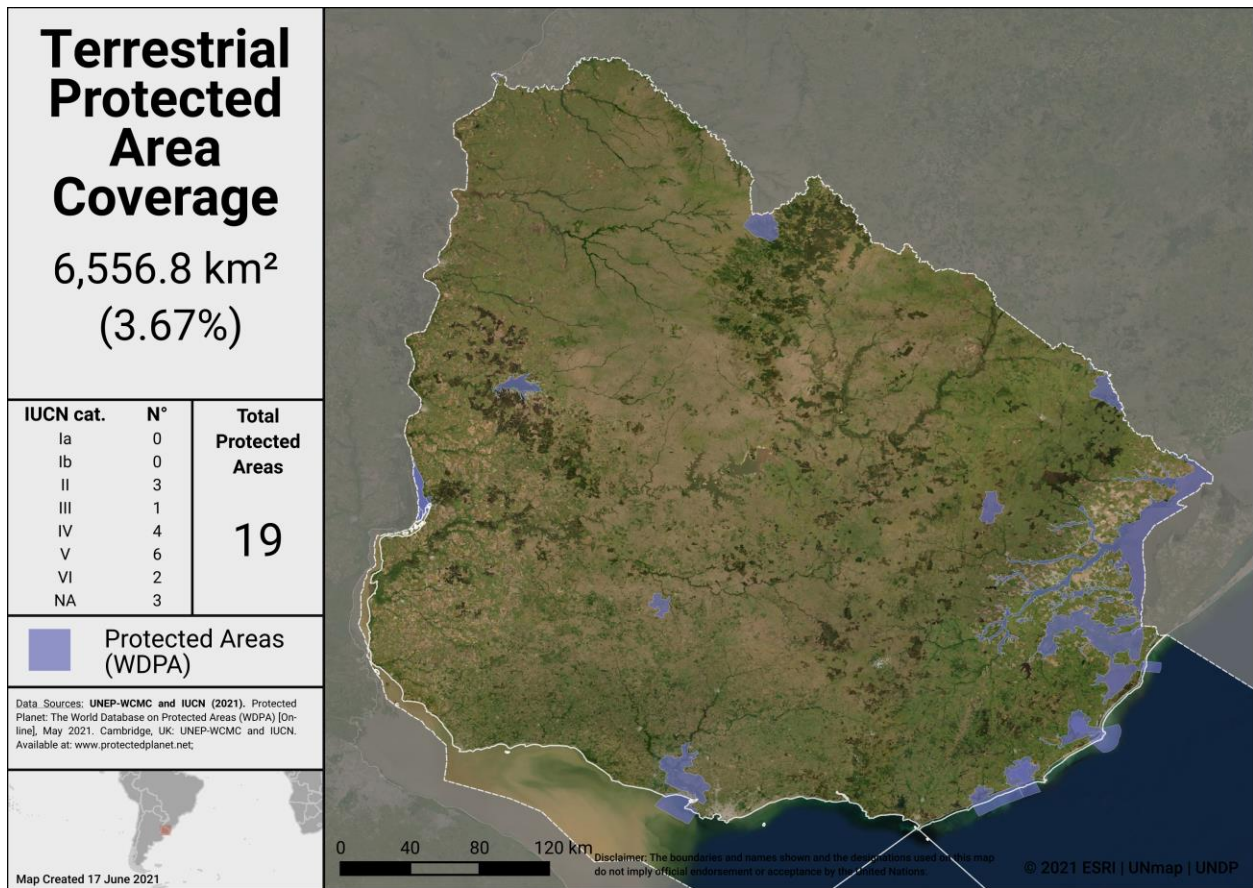
What is reported as protected area in the Sixth National Report to the CBD (8.6%), includes other area-based conservation measures (Ramsar Sites, Biosphere Reserves, and land categorized as natural-rural in the Land Use Planning instruments).

The statistics reported throughout the dossier include the area of 3 Ramsar sites, which are categories that the country does not have within the SNAP (they are categorized as other area-based conservation measures).

The area of the *Quebrada de los Cuervos* protected area has been expanded, updated figures are being provided for updating the WDPA. The detail of the increased marine areas will also be sent again for updating.

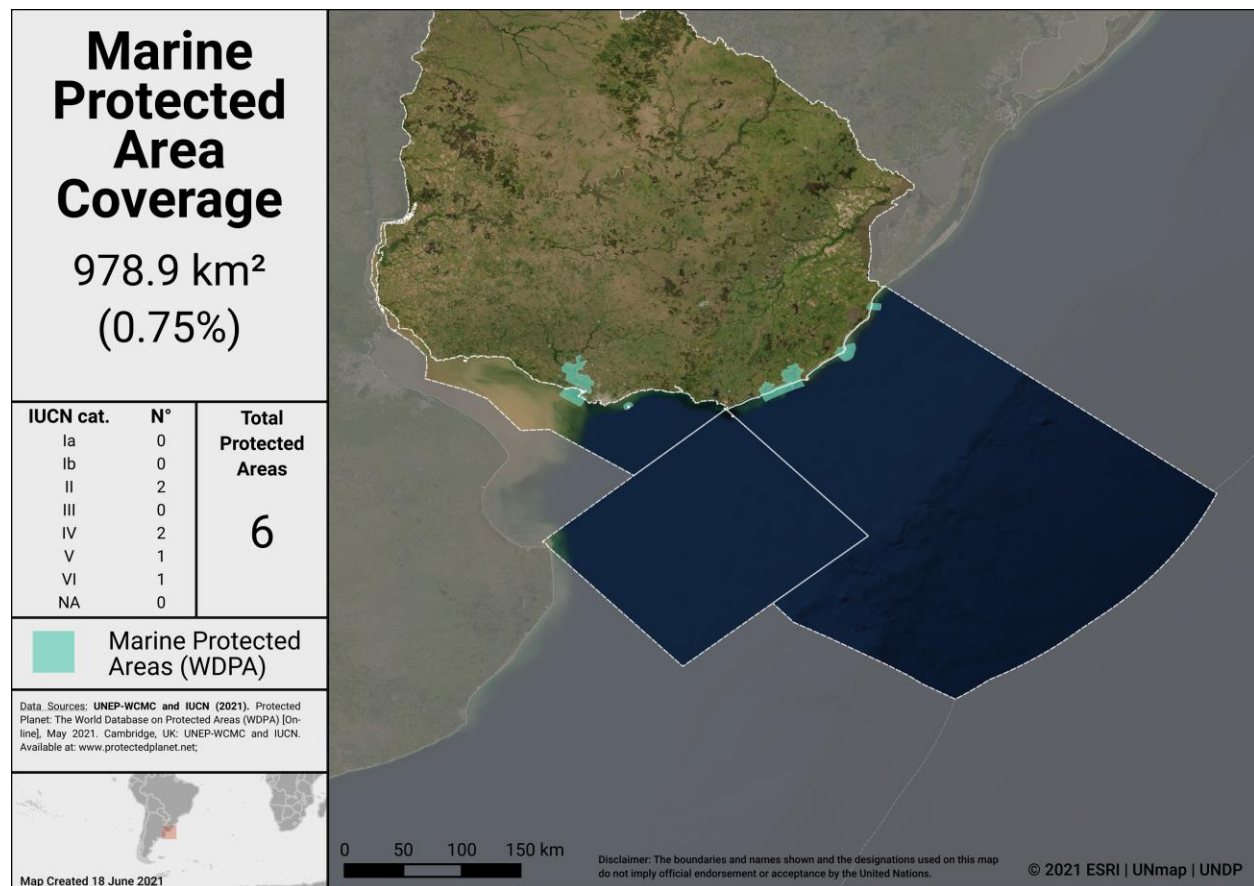
*This may impact some of the statistics in the following sections.*





Terrestrial Protected Areas in Uruguay





Marine Protected Areas in Uruguay

### Potential OECMs

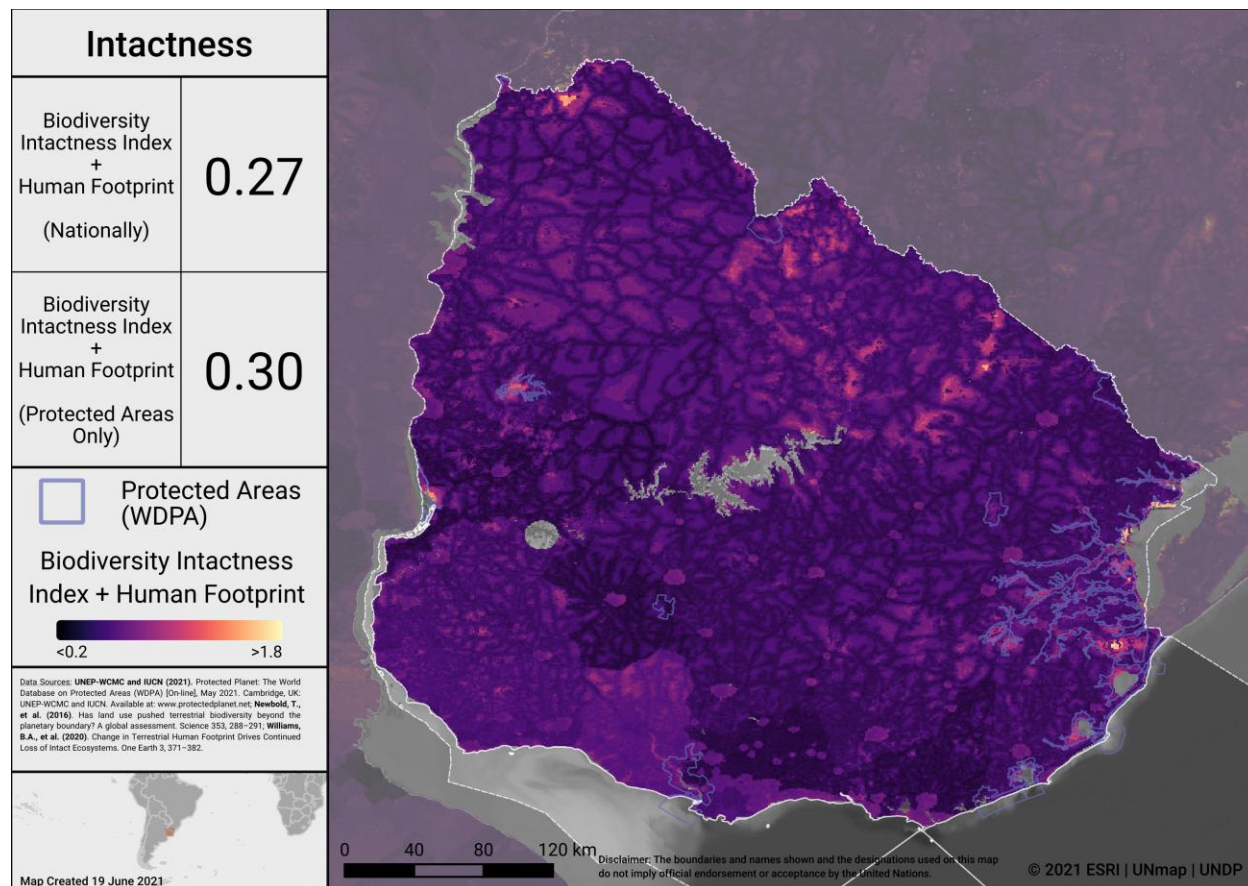
There are currently no potential OECM examples for Uruguay.

### Opportunities for action

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

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).

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

- 3 ecoregions have at least some coverage from PAs and OECMs.
- 2 ecoregions have at least 17% protected within the country.
- The average coverage of terrestrial ecoregions is 21.0%.

Uruguay has 3 **marine** ecoregions and 1 **pelagic province**. Out of these:

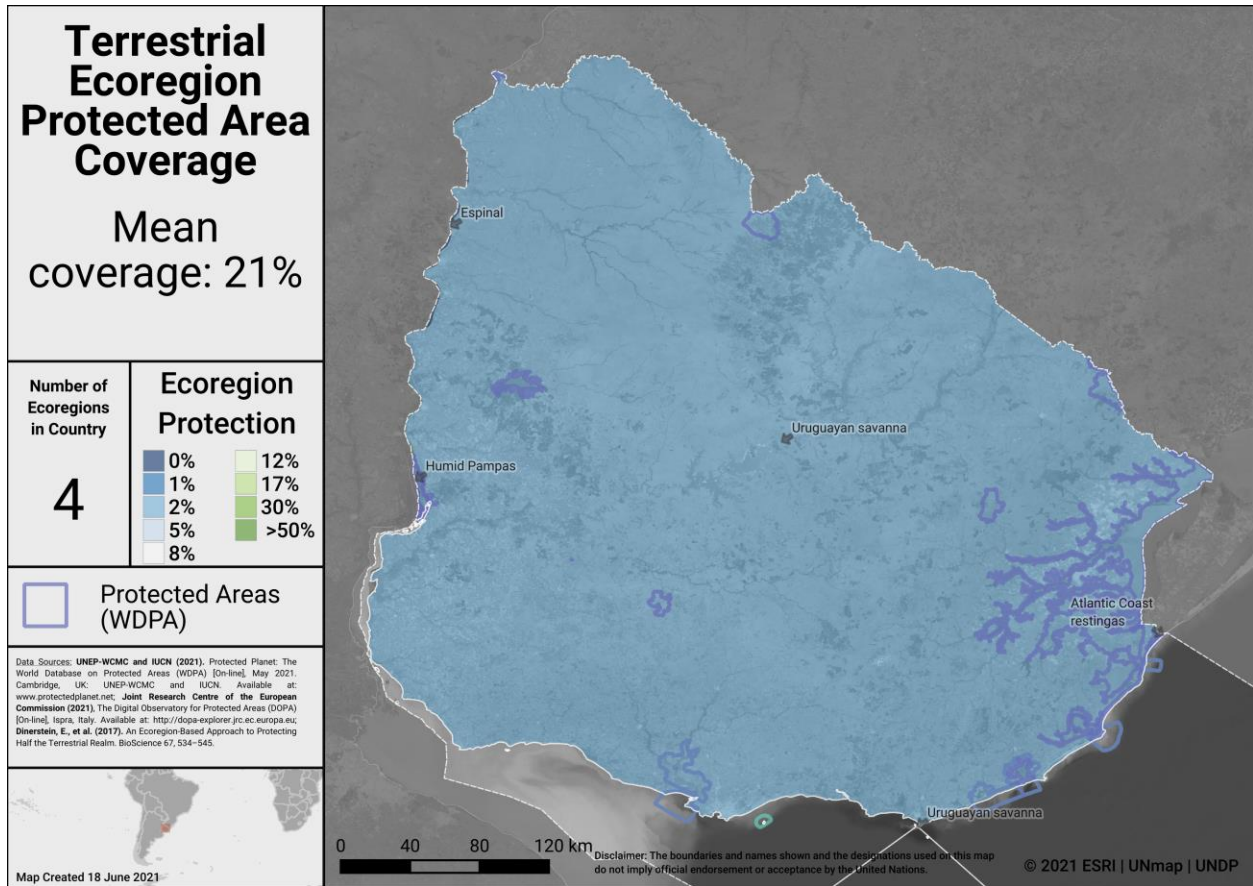
- 2 marine ecoregions and 0 pelagic provinces have at least some coverage from reported PAs and OECMs.
- 0 marine ecoregions and 0 pelagic provinces have at least 10% protected within Uruguay's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
- The average sea coverage of marine ecoregions is 1.0% and the coverage of the 1 pelagic province is 0.0%.

A full list of terrestrial ecoregions in Uruguay is available in Annex I.

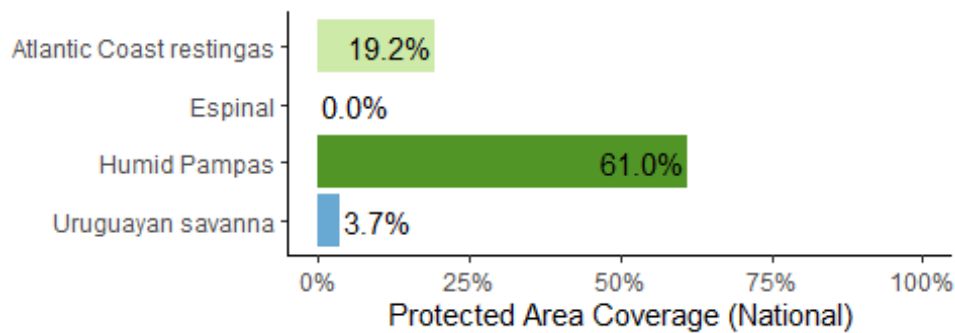
At the national level, Uruguay uses a different measure of ecological representativeness. SNAP currently covers at least a representative sample of the following biodiversity features:

- 42% of priority species for conservation
- 52% of threatened ecosystems
- 100% of landscape units and national eco-regions
- 80% of species vulnerable to climate change





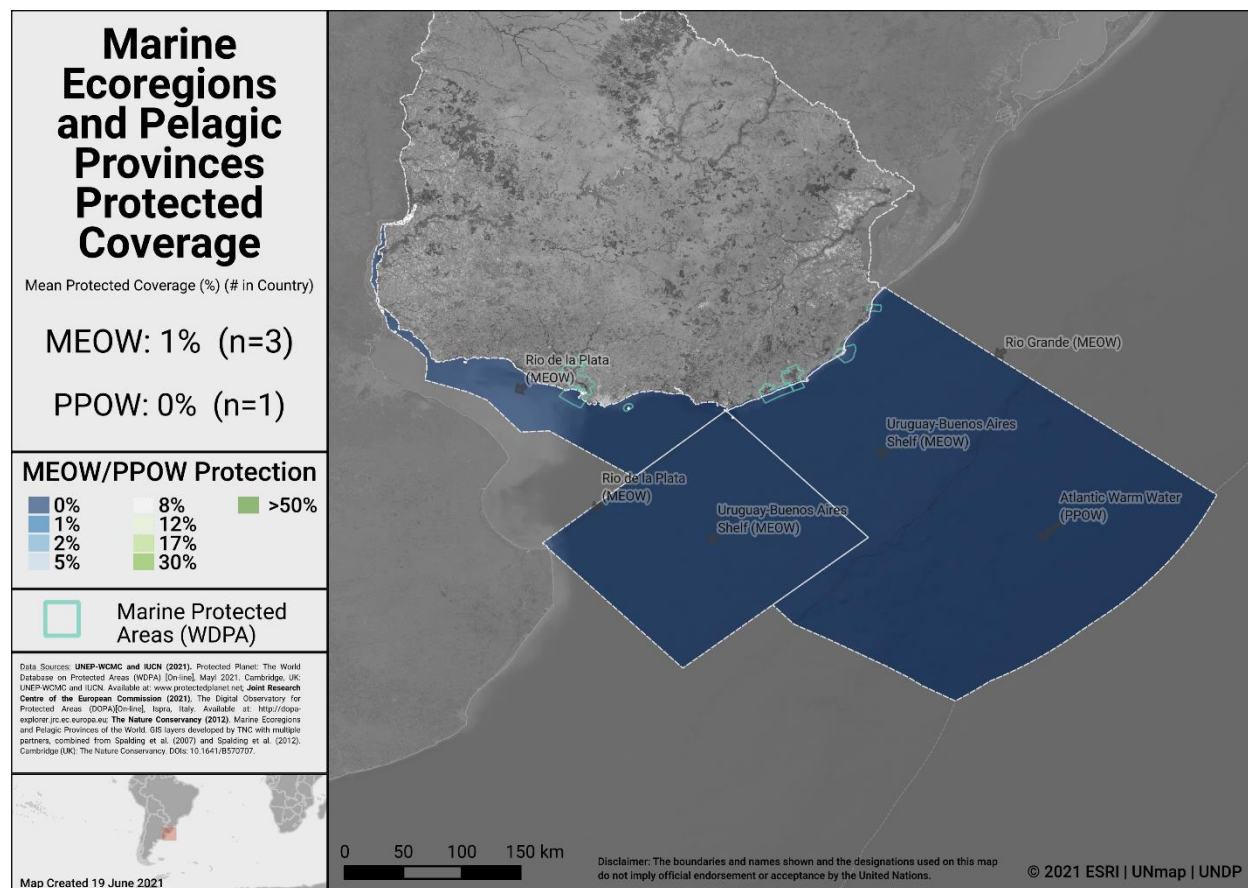
Terrestrial ecoregions in Uruguay



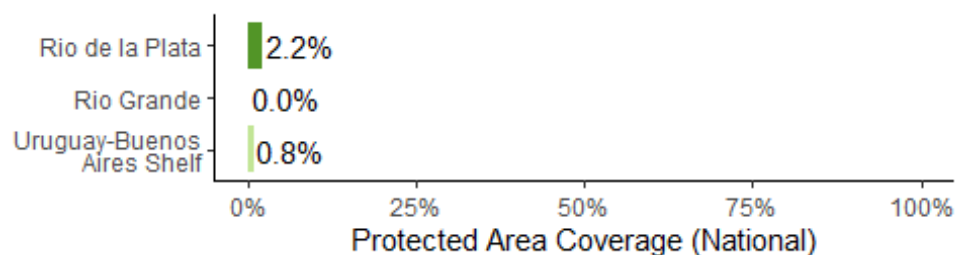
Terrestrial ecoregions of the World (TEOW) in Uruguay



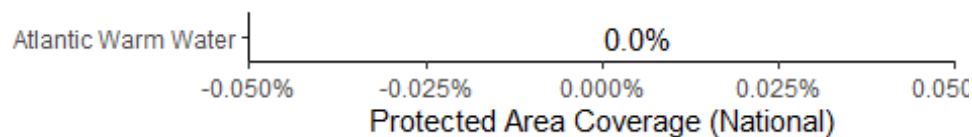




Marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces



Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW) in Uruguay



Pelagic Provinces of the World (PPOW) in Uruguay



Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Uruguay 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).

Uruguay has **22** Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

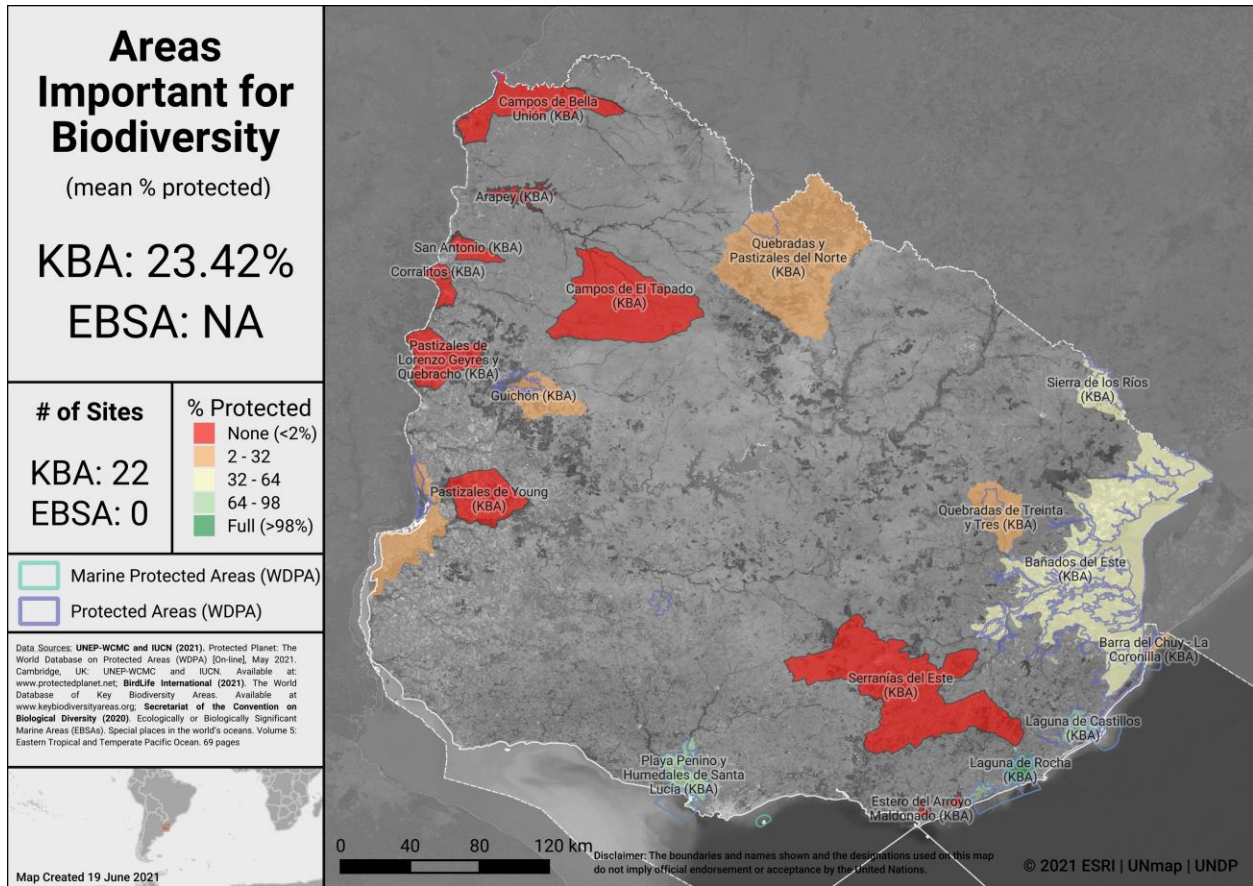
- Mean percent coverage of all KBAs by PAs and OECMs in Uruguay is **23.4%**.
- **1** KBA has full (>98%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **10** KBAs have partial coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **11** KBAs have no (<2%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.

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

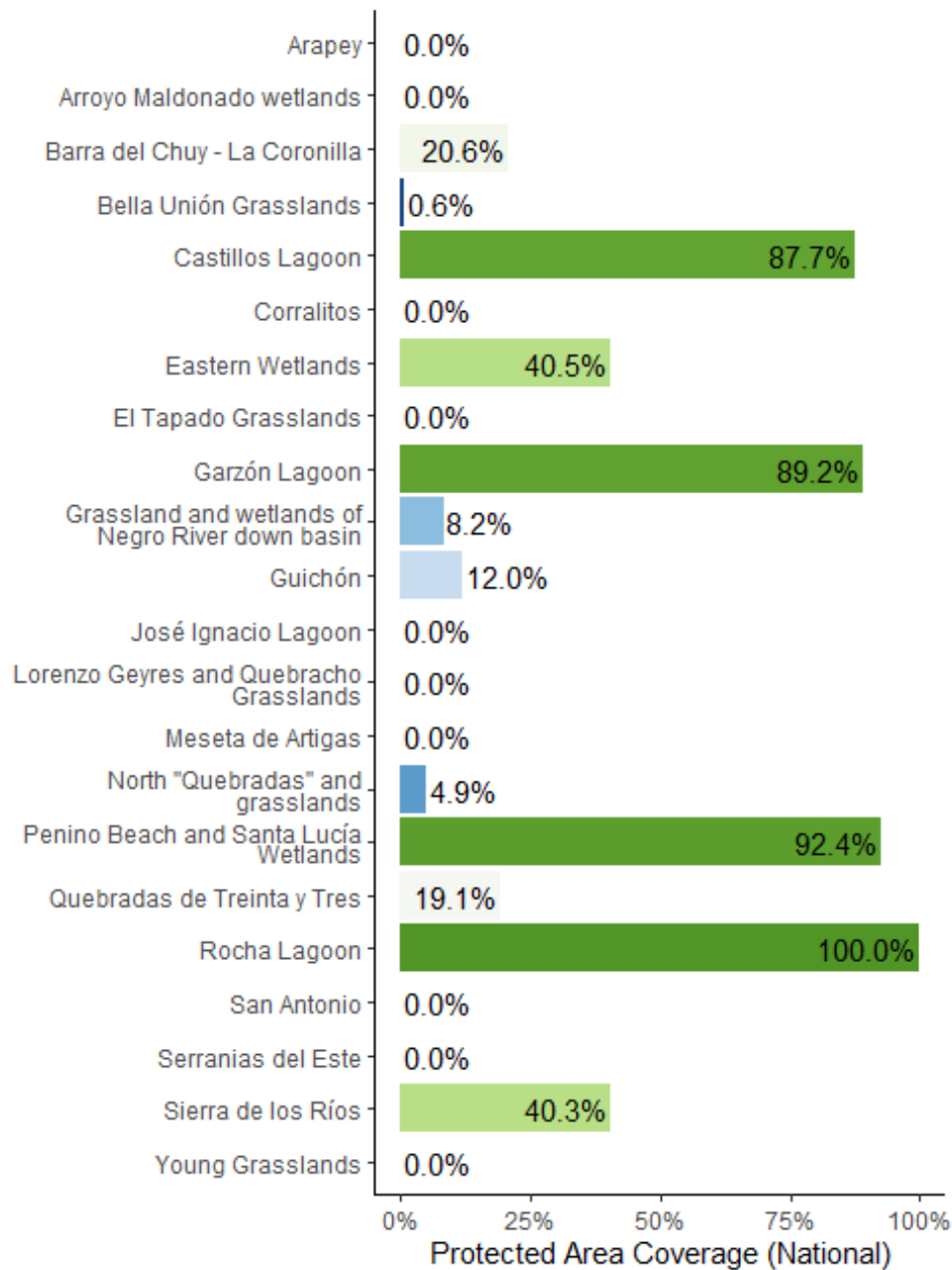
Other important areas for biodiversity may also include Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), which were identified following the scientific criteria adopted at COP-9 (Decision IX/20; see more at: <https://www.cbd.int/ebsa/>). Sites that meet the EBSA criteria may require enhanced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

There are no EBSAs to report in Uruguay.





Areas Important for Biodiversity in Uruguay



Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Uruguay

### Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Uruguay 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.





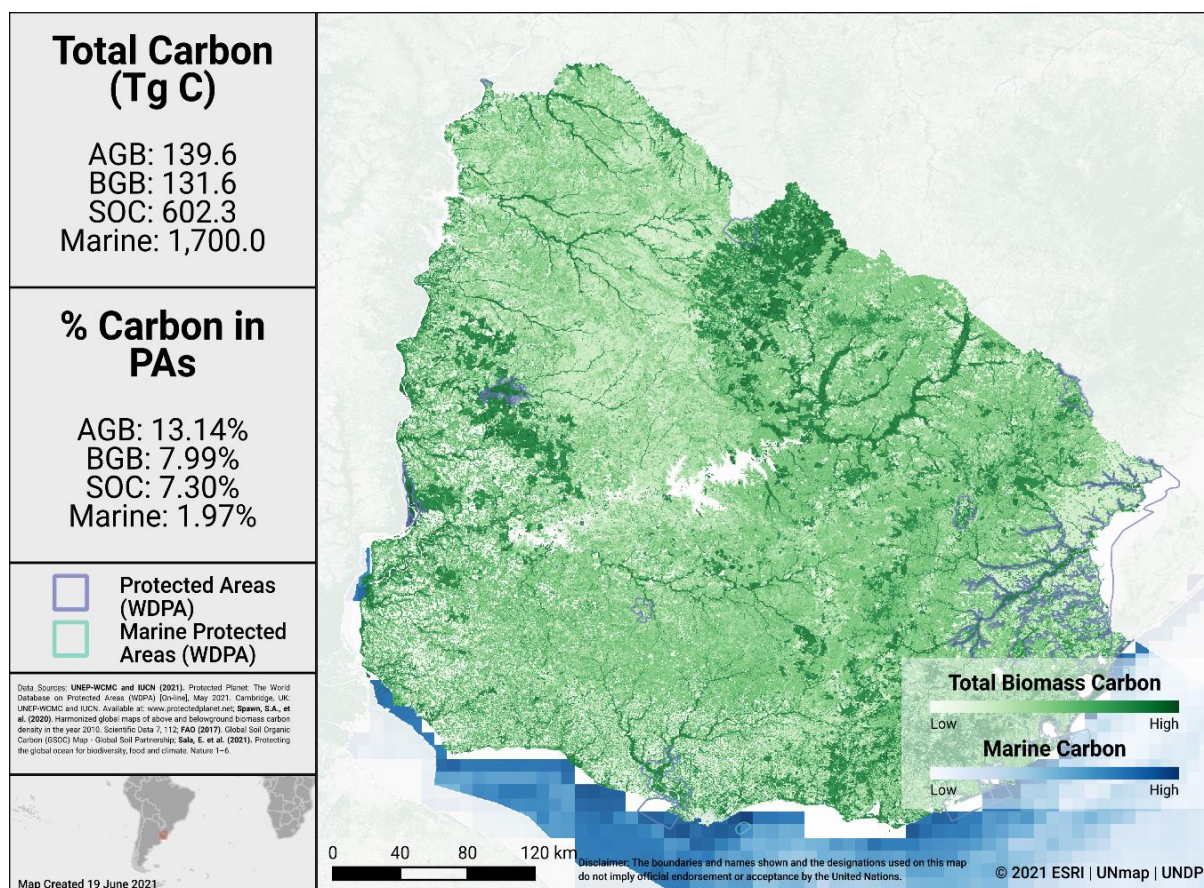
## AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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 presents total carbon stocks in Uruguay and the percent of carbon in PAs. Total carbon stocks are 139.6 Tg C from aboveground biomass (AGB), with 13.1% in PAs; 131.6 Tg C from below ground biomass (BGB), with 8.0% in PAs; 602.3 Tg C from soil organic carbon (SOC), with 7.3% in PAs [*it is noted that calculations of total SOC do not correspond to national estimates*]; and 1,700.0 Tg C from marine sediment carbon, with 2.0% in MPAs.



Carbon Stocks in Uruguay

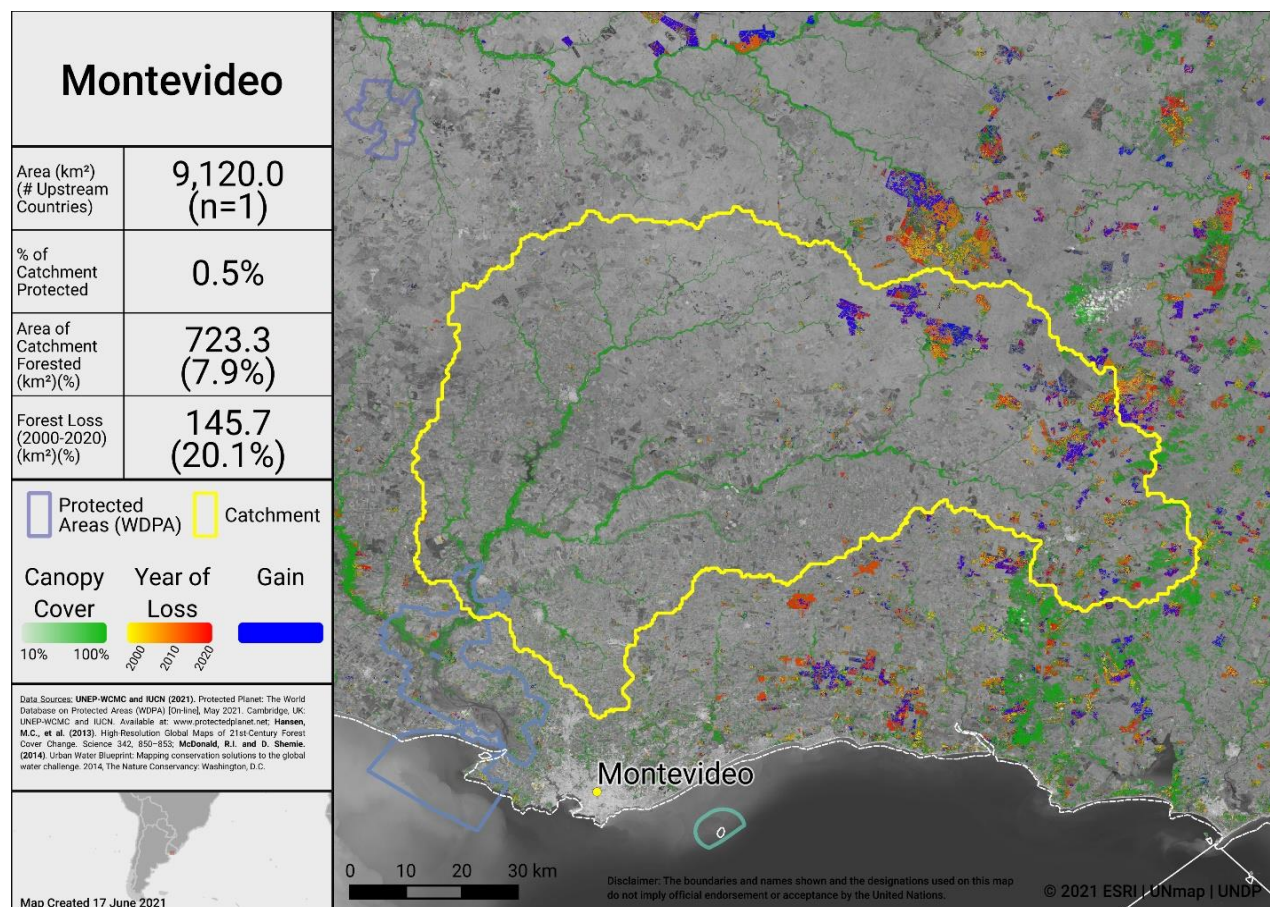


Water

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

Forests and intact ecosystems support stormwater management and clean water availability, especially for large urban populations. Research examining 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 Uruguay may similarly depend on protected forest areas within and around water catchments. The map below shows the percentage forest cover and the forest loss from 2000-2020 in the most heavily populated water catchment of Uruguay. Intact catchments can support more consistent water supply and improved water quality. It is noted, that the limits of the Santa Lucía River Basin are poorly represented as a supply basin to Montevideo. The country has an Action Plan for the Santa Lucía River Basin that supplies the capital and metropolitan area with drinking water, one of the measures of this plan is the obligation of private parties to respect a buffer zone between the areas of cultivation and waterways to mitigate eutrophication events.



Water catchment in Montevideo



### Opportunities for action

For carbon, there is opportunity for Uruguay 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, and to focus on effective management for these areas. Protecting the current area of forested land and potentially reforesting would have benefits for improving water security. Continue implementation of the Action Plan for the Santa Lucía River Basin that supplies the capital and metropolitan area with drinking water.



## 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 Uruguay was 2.5%.

### PARC-Connectedness Index

In 2019, as assessed using the PARC-Connectedness Index (values ranging from 0-1, indicating low to high connectivity), connectivity in Uruguay is 0.46. This represents a decrease from 0.47 in 2010.

### Corridor case studies

There are several national studies on biological corridors available for Uruguay.

### 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. 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 Uruguay reported in the WDPA have the following governance types:

- 18.2% are governed by **governments**
  - 9.1% by federal or national ministry or agency
  - 9.1% by sub-national ministry or agency
  - 0.0% by government-delegated management
- 40.9% are under **shared** governance (by collaborative governance)
- 4.5% are under **private** governance (by for-profit organisations)
- 0.0% are under **IPLC** governance
  - 0.0% by Indigenous Peoples
  - 0.0% by local communities
- 36.4% **do not** report a governance type

*It was noted that there are PAs listed with the wrong governance type in the WDPA. The governance type for each of the PAs will be updated.*

### OECMs

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

### Opportunities for action

Governance types for each PA will need to be updated. If applicable, explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation.



There is also opportunity for Uruguay 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, Uruguay has 22 PAs (17 nationally designated PAs) reported in the WDPA; of these PAs, 10 (59% of nationally designated PAs) have management effectiveness evaluations currently reported in the global database on protected area management effectiveness (GD-PAME). However, all protected areas (**100%**) of the SNAP [national system of PAs] have completed evaluations (excluding Ramsar sites and biosphere reserves). METT assessments performed in 2015 and 2019 will be reported (as they are not currently reflected in the GD-PAME<sup>1</sup>).

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 Uruguay reported in the WD-OECM and no information available on the management effectiveness of potential OECMs.

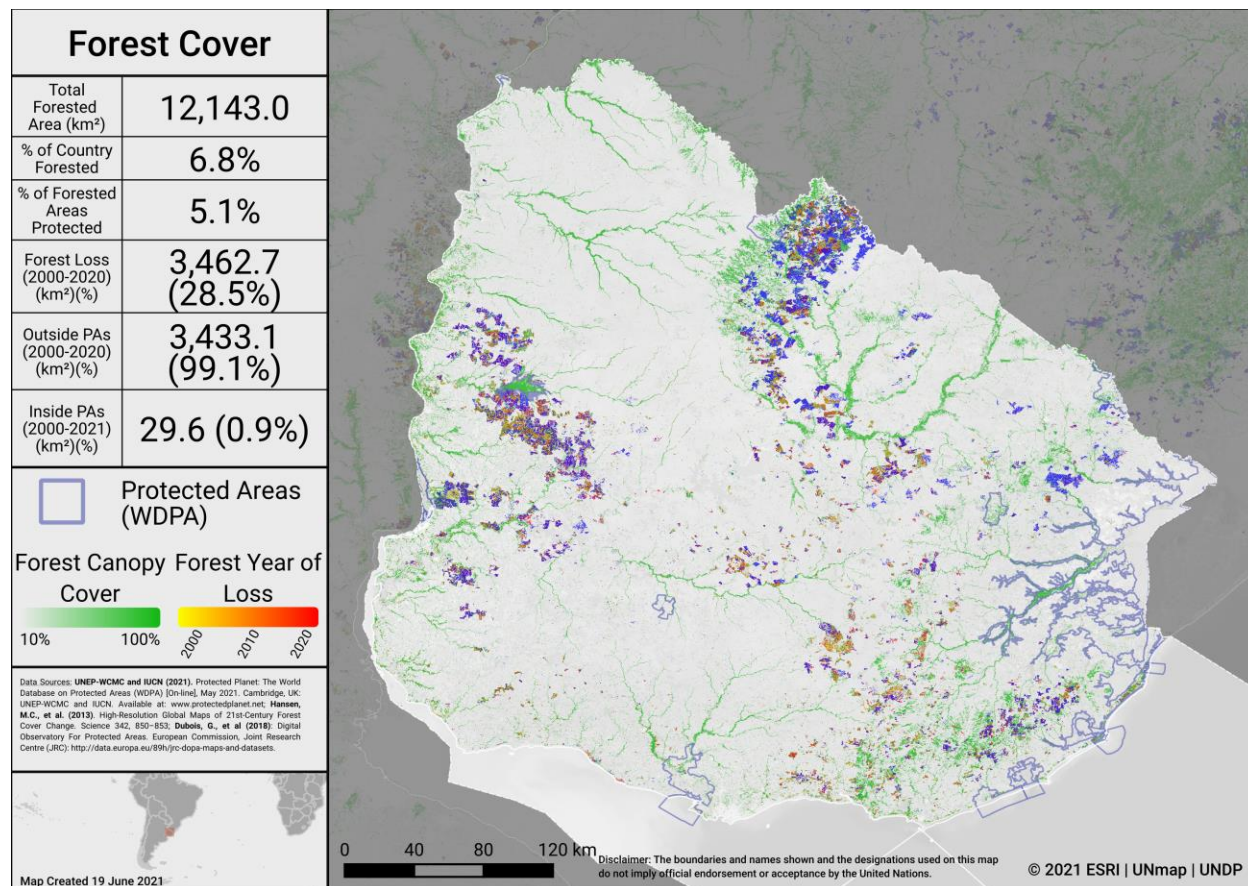
### Changes in forest cover in protected areas and OECMs

Looking only at native forest area, Uruguay has 4.8% of its land area covered; the SNAP [national system of PAs] has a total area of 4.6% of native forest within its PAs.

Total forested areas in Uruguay covers approximately 6.8% of the country, an area of 12,143.0 km<sup>2</sup>. Approximately 5.1% (623.5 km<sup>2</sup>) of this is within the protected area estate of Uruguay [includes nationally designated PAs within SNAP, but also international designations]. Over the period 2000-2020 loss of forest cover amounted to over 3,462.7 km<sup>2</sup>, or 2.0% of the country (28.5% of forested area), of which 29.6 km<sup>2</sup> (0.9% of forest loss) occurred within protected areas. The map below shows how forest cover has changed in Uruguay from 2000-2020 both inside and outside of PAs. This can indicate how effective PAs are in reducing forest cover loss.

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<sup>1</sup> Currently, as reflected in the GD-PAME, 29% of terrestrial PAs and 68% of marine PAs (including both national designations and international designation like Ramsar Sites)



Forest Cover and Forest Loss in Uruguay

### 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. METT assessments performed in 2015 and 2019 still need to be reported.

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 Latin America and the Caribbean on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 took place 28 September - 1 October 2015 in Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil. 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 **19,574 km<sup>2</sup>** and increase coverage of marine areas by **1,623km<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) By 2020, all PAs (created by 2018) and all Biosphere reserve and Ramsar sites will have management plans
- 2) By 2020, 15% of the territory will be protected.

**Marine coverage:** By 2020 2% of marine waters will be protected through the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP) and other conservation measures based on areas (Biosphere Reserves, RAMSAR sites protection of native forest and soil categorized as a natural rural).

**Ecological representation:** 100% of sites identified through previous analysis have been assessed to see if they can be integrated in the PA system.

**Areas Important for biodiversity and ecosystem services:** Coastal ecosystems; Salt marshes; rangelands (grasslands, soils characterized as a natural rural). watersheds.

#### **Connectivity:**

- 1) By 2020 every management plan must take connectivity and corridors into account
- 2) Create at least one regional natural park linked to a PA.



**Management effectiveness:**

- 1) 80% of PA management plans implemented
- 2) By 2017 100% of the protected areas have been designed according to the Guidelines for Planning of Protected Areas of Uruguay.
- 3) By 2020 assessment of PAs completed 4
- 4) By 2017 implementation of monitoring tools in all PAs with different uses
- 5) By 2017 50% of PAs must have conservation indicators
- 6) By 2020 information from indicators must be incorporate in 50% of PAs
- 7) By 2020 all existing PAs (2014) must have created transparency mechanisms for PA finance
- 8) Comparison analysis of sustainable activities following the implementation of monitoring programs will be done in at least 3 PAs by 2020
- 9) Development of indicators for monitoring and evaluation by 2017.

**Governance and Equity:**

- 1) By 2020, all Pas created by 2017 have implemented the governance model defined by its management plan
- 2) By 2020 creation of conservation incentives in minimal use zones of PAs
- 3) By 2020 social and cultural aspects have been integrated in PA creation and management
- 4) By 2020 creation of fiscal benefits for the conservation of native forests.

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

- 1) By 2020 15% of the terrestrial area and 2% of the marine waters will be protected and integrated in wider land/seascape
- 2) Creation of criteria for sustainable development within or surrounding PAs (GEF project).

**OECS:** SNAP has a system of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of conservation objectives and contribution to development based on the contributions of protected areas. 2017.





## NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

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

This NBSAP **did** include a quantitative target for **terrestrial** (15%) and **marine** (2%) PA or OECM coverage. As of May 2021 (based on the WDPA/WD-OECM) the targets **have not** been met (see area added in the previous section: National Priority Actions).

*11a- By 2020, at least 15% of the continental surface and 2% of the sea surface are conserved through the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP) and other conservation measures based on areas (Biosphere Reserves, RAMSAR Sites, Native forest protection and soils categorized as natural rural), and are integrated into the wider land and sea landscapes.*

*11b- By 2020, 100% of the protected areas entered into 2018 and 100% of the currently designated Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar Sites have an institutionally approved management plan.*

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

NBSAP Action number	Action (original language from NBSAP)	Action (English translation)
1.1.1	Consolidación del SNAP de acuerdo al Plan Estratégico 2015-2020, incluidos los planes de manejo de las áreas que lo integran.	Consolidation of the SNAP under the Strategic Plan 2015-2020, including the management plans of the areas that comprise it.
1.1.2	Elaboración de los Planes de Gestión para las Reservas de Biosfera del Programa MAB UNESCO "Bañados del Este" y "Bioma Pampa".	Development of Management Plans for the Biosphere Reserves of the UNESCO MAB Program "Eastern Wetlands" and "biome Pampa".
1.1.5	Formulación de Planes de Gestión para los sitios Ramsar "Bañados del Este", "Esteros de Farrapos" y "Laguna de Rocha"	Formulation of Management Plans for the Ramsar Sites "Bañados del Este", "Esteros de Farrapos" and "Laguna de Rocha"
1.1.6	Evaluación de sitios para la conservación de especies migratorias.	Evaluation of sites for the conservation of migratory species.
1.2.2	Discusión sobre el rol de los zoológicos en la actualidad y propuestas al respecto	Discussion on the role of zoos today and proposals thereon

Progress updates as of 2021:

**Action 1.1.1:** The consolidation process of the SNAP [national system of PAs] has advanced in accordance with its Strategic Plan, new areas have been incorporated and the surface area of others have expanded. In relation to the Management Plans, an important % of the PAs still do not have one (*El proceso de consolidación del SNAP ha avanzado de acuerdo con su Plan Estratégico, se han incorporado nuevas áreas y ampliado la superficie de otra. En relación a los Planes de Manejo aún un %importante de las AP no cuenta con uno*)

**Action 1.1.2:** Uruguay currently has two Biosphere Reserves (Bañados del Este and Franja Costera, in the departments of Treinta y Tres, Rocha, Cerro Largo and Maldonado, and Bioma Pampa, and Quebradas del Norte in the department of Rivera). There has been no progress in the development of management plans for these conservation areas. Efforts have been intermittent and the lack of resources (human and material) explains the scant progress (*Uruguay cuenta en la actualidad con dos Reservas de Biósfera: Bañados del Este y Franja Costera en los departamentos de Treinta y Tres, Rocha, Cerro Largo y Maldonado, y Bioma Pampa - Quebradas del Norte en el departamento de Rivera. No ha habido avances en la elaboración de planes de gestión para estos espacios de conservación. Los esfuerzos en el tema han sido intermitentes y la falta de recursos (humanos y materiales) explican el escaso progreso*)

**Action 1.1.5:** The Esteros de Farrapos and Laguna de Rocha Ramsar sites are also areas of the SNAP and have an approved Management Plan. The Bañados del Este site does not have a Management Plan but it also contains SNAP protected areas within its limits, two of which have approved management plans and two in the process of preparation. (*Los sitios Ramsar Esteros de Farrapos y Laguna de Rocha son también áreas del Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas, y cuentan con Plan de Manejo aprobado. El sitio Bañados del Este no cuenta con Plan de Manejo pero también contiene en sus límites áreas protegidas del SNAP, dos con planes de manejo aprobados y dos en proceso de elaboración.*)

**Action 1.1.6:** Information on groups with migratory species is generally scattered, outdated and insufficient in some cases. The challenge has been raised to develop a process for systematizing the information available on sites and migratory routes in order to develop a proposal for “temporary” conservation figures. (*La información sobre grupos con especies migratorias se encuentra dispersa en general, estando desactualizada y siendo insuficiente en algunos casos. Se ha planteado como desafío el desarrollo de un proceso de sistematización de la información disponible sobre sitios y rutas migratorias a efectos de elaborar una propuesta de figuras “temporales” de conservación.*)



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

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

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

GEF ID	PA increase?	Area to be added (km <sup>2</sup> )	Type of new protected area	Qualitative elements potentially benefitting (based on keyword search of PIFs)
4841	Yes	638	Terrestrial	All except Ecosystem services

Based on spatial data available for GEF project 4841, benefits will arise for several elements of Target 11:

#### Coverage of Terrestrial and Marine Ecoregions:

- 2 Terrestrial Ecoregions will have improved coverage. These Ecoregions are: Humid Pampas; Uruguayan savanna.
  - The average increase in coverage of Terrestrial Ecoregions will be 0.05%.
- 1 Marine Ecoregions will have improved coverage (Uruguay-Buenos Aires Shelf)
  - Increase in coverage of Marine Ecoregions will be 0.01%.

#### Coverage of KBAs:

- Coverage will improve for 5 KBAs.



## OTHER ACTIONS/COMMITMENTS

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

*As such, we must promote the protection and sustainable development of oceans and coastal environments. We are concerned with having a more strategic effective and participative strategy and our national system of protected areas is key to this policy.*





## ANNEX I

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### 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>
Atlantic Coast restingas	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.7	19.2
Espinal	117.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Humid Pampas	78.7	0.0	0.0	48.0	61.0
Uruguayan savanna	177,828.3	50.4	99.8	6,548.0	3.7



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

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