Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF)

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GLOSSARY

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
OECM	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-OECM	World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures

Disclaimer

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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 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 levelThis 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 - Terrestrial & Marine

- **Status:** as of May 2021, terrestrial coverage in Congo (Democratic Republic of) is 324,289.7 km^2 (13.8%) and marine coverage is 31.4 km^2 (0.2%).

- **Opportunities for action:** opportunities for the near-term include updating the WDPA with any unreported PAs, and the recognizing and reporting OECMs to the WD-OECM. In the future, focus on relatively intact areas, while addressing the elements in the following sections, could be considered when planning new PAs or OECMs.

Ecological Representativeness– Terrestrial & Marine

- **Status:** Congo (Democratic Republic of) contains 19 terrestrial ecoregions, 1 marine ecoregion, and 1 pelagic province: the mean coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 21.5% (terrestrial), 0.8% (marine), and 0.0% (pelagic); 6 terrestrial ecoregions and 1 pelagic province have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Congo (Democratic Republic of) 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:** Congo (Democratic Republic of) has 24 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): the mean protected coverage of KBAs by reported PAs and OECMs is 50.5%, while 8 KBAs have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Congo (Democratic Republic of) 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 Congo (Democratic Republic of), 16.4% of aboveground biomass carbon, 15.9% of belowground biomass carbon, 15.2% of soil organic carbon, 1.0% of carbon stored in marine sediments is covered by PAs and OECMs.

- **Opportunities for action:** for carbon, there is opportunity for Congo (Democratic Republic of) to increase PA and OECM coverage in both marine and terrestrial areas with high carbon stocks. Protecting areas with high carbon stocks secures the benefits of carbon sequestration in the area.

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

Connectivity and Integration

- **Status:** coverage of protected-connected lands is 4.4%.

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for a targeted increase in connecting 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 Congo (Democratic Republic of) is: 3.8% under Government (1.9% Federal or national ministry or agency; 1.9% Government-delegated management).

- **Opportunities for action:** increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 94.2% 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 Congo (Democratic 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:** 48.1% of terrestrial PAs and 100.0% of marine PAs have completed Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessments reported.
- **Opportunities for action:** the 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has not** been met for terrestrial PAs and **has** been met for marine PAs. Therefore, there is opportunity to increase protected area management effectiveness (PAME) evaluations for terrestrial PAs to achieve the target.
- There is also opportunity to implement the results of completed PAME evaluations, to improve the quality of management for existing PAs and OECMs (e.g. through adaptive management and information sharing, increasing the number of sites reporting 'sound management') and to increase reporting of biodiversity outcomes in PAs and OECMs.

INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan from 18-29 October 2010. The vision of the Strategic Plan is one of "Living in harmony with nature" where *"By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people"* (CBD, 2010). In addition to this vision, the Strategic Plan is composed of 20 targets, under five strategic goals. Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 states that *"By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes."*

With the conclusion of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in 2020, Target 11 on area-based conservation has seen success in the expansion of the global network of protected areas (PA) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). The negotiation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and its future targets provide an essential opportunity to further improve the coverage of PAs and OECMs, to improve other aspects of area-based conservation, to accelerate progress on biodiversity conservation more broadly, while also addressing climate change, and the Sustainable Development Goals. This next set of global biodiversity targets are to be adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. These new targets must aim to build upon lessons learned from the last decade of progress to deliver transformative change for the benefit of nature and people, to realize the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity have developed the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossiers, which provide countries with an overview of the status of Target 11 elements, opportunities for action, and a summary of commitments made by Parties over the last decade. Each dossier can support countries in assessing their progress on key elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and identifying opportunities to prioritize new protected areas and OECMs.

This dossier provides an overview of area-based conservation in Congo (Democratic Republic of). Section I of the dossier presents data on the current status of Congo (Democratic 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 Congo (Democratic Republic of), in relation to each Target 11 element. The analyses present options for improving Congo (Democratic Republic of)'s area-based conservation network to achieve enhanced protection and benefits for livelihoods and climate change. Section II presents details on Congo (Democratic 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 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.

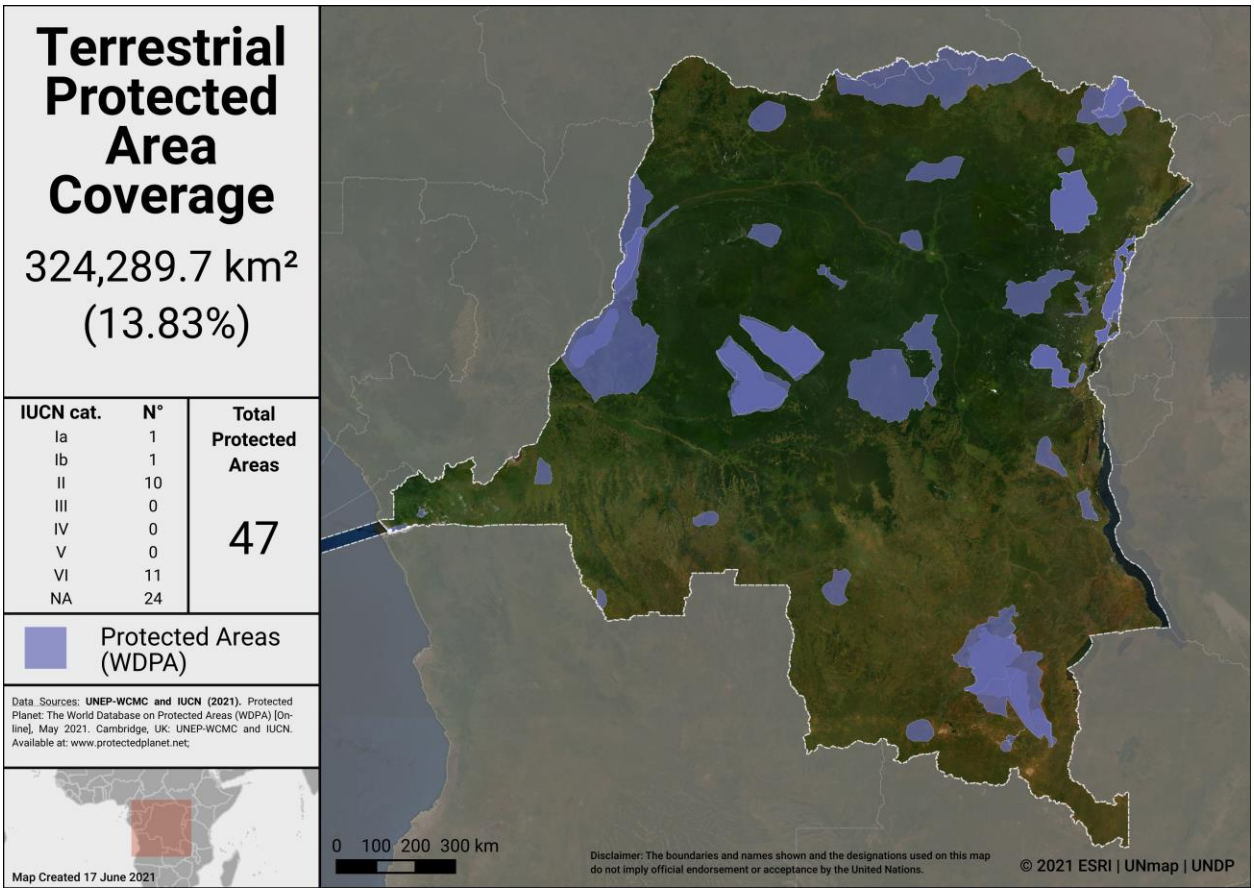
COVERAGE - TERRESTRIAL & MARINE

As of May 2021, Congo (Democratic Republic of) has **52** protected areas reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). 1 PA that is proposed, and a further 3 UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserves, are not included in the following statistics (see details on UNWP-WCMC's methods for calculating PA and OECM coverage **here**).

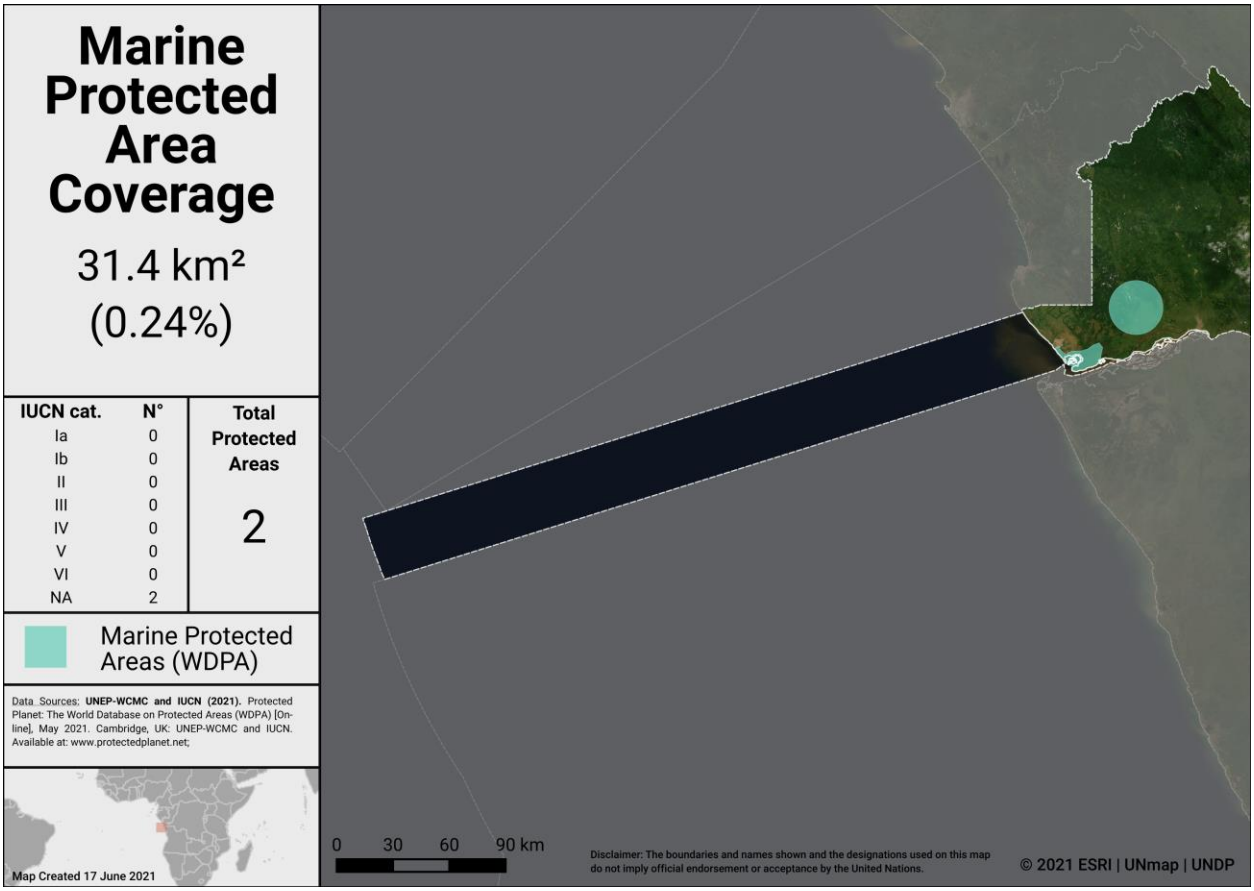
As of May 2021, Congo (Democratic Republic of) has **0** OECMs reported in the world database on OECMs (WD-OECM).

Current coverage for Congo (Democratic Republic of):

- 13.8% terrestrial (47 protected areas, 324,289.7 km^2)
- 0.2% marine (2 protected areas, 31.4 km^2)



Terrestrial Protected Areas in Congo (Democratic Republic of)



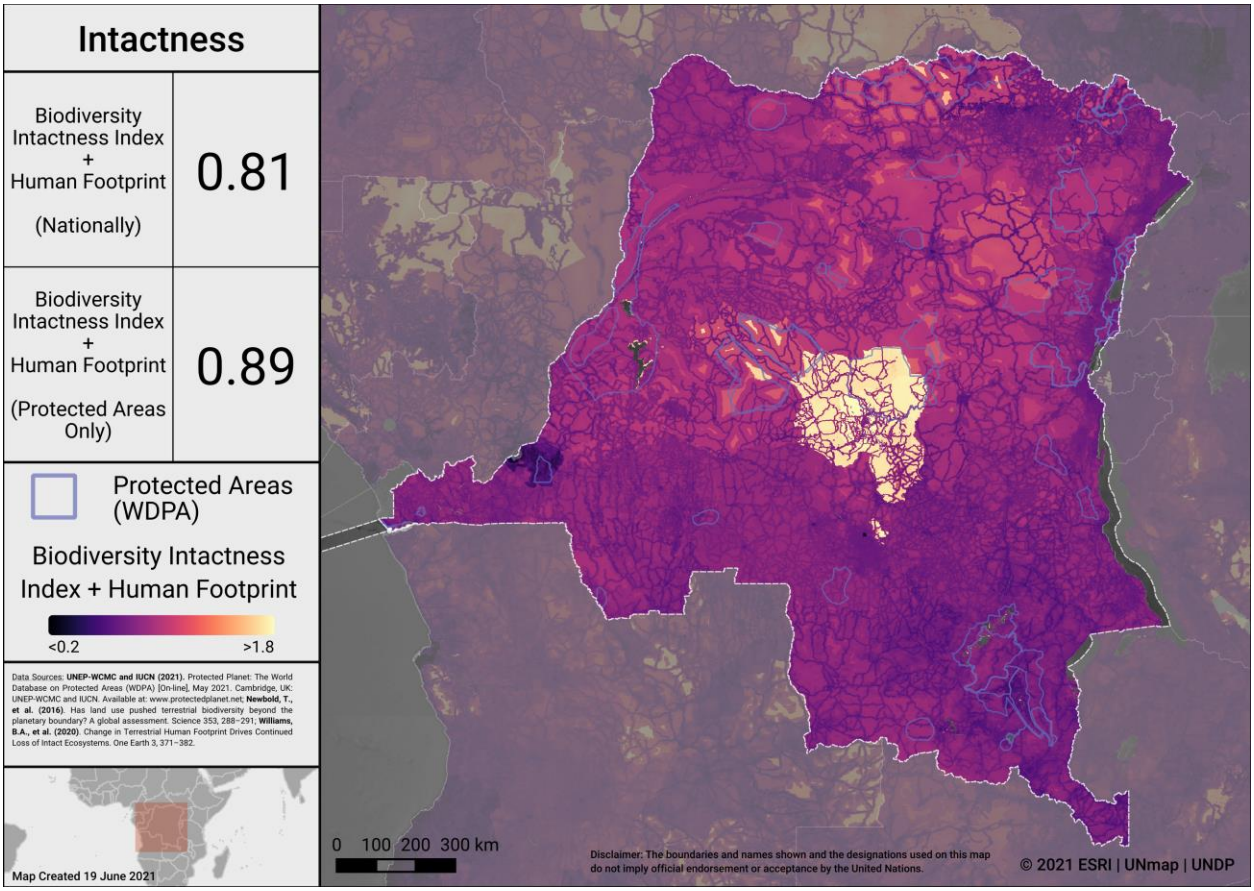
Marine Protected Areas in Congo (Democratic Republic of)

Potential OECMs

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

Opportunities for action

Opportunities for the near-term include updating the WDPA with any unreported PAs, and the recognizing and reporting OECMs to the WD-OECM. In the future, as Congo (Democratic Republic of) considers where to add new PAs and OECMs, the map below identifies areas in Congo (Democratic Republic of) where intact terrestrial areas are not currently protected. Focus on relatively intact areas, while addressing the elements in the following sections, could be considered when planning new PAs or OECMs.



Intactness in Congo (Democratic Republic of)

To explore more on intactness visit the UN Biodiversity Lab: 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).

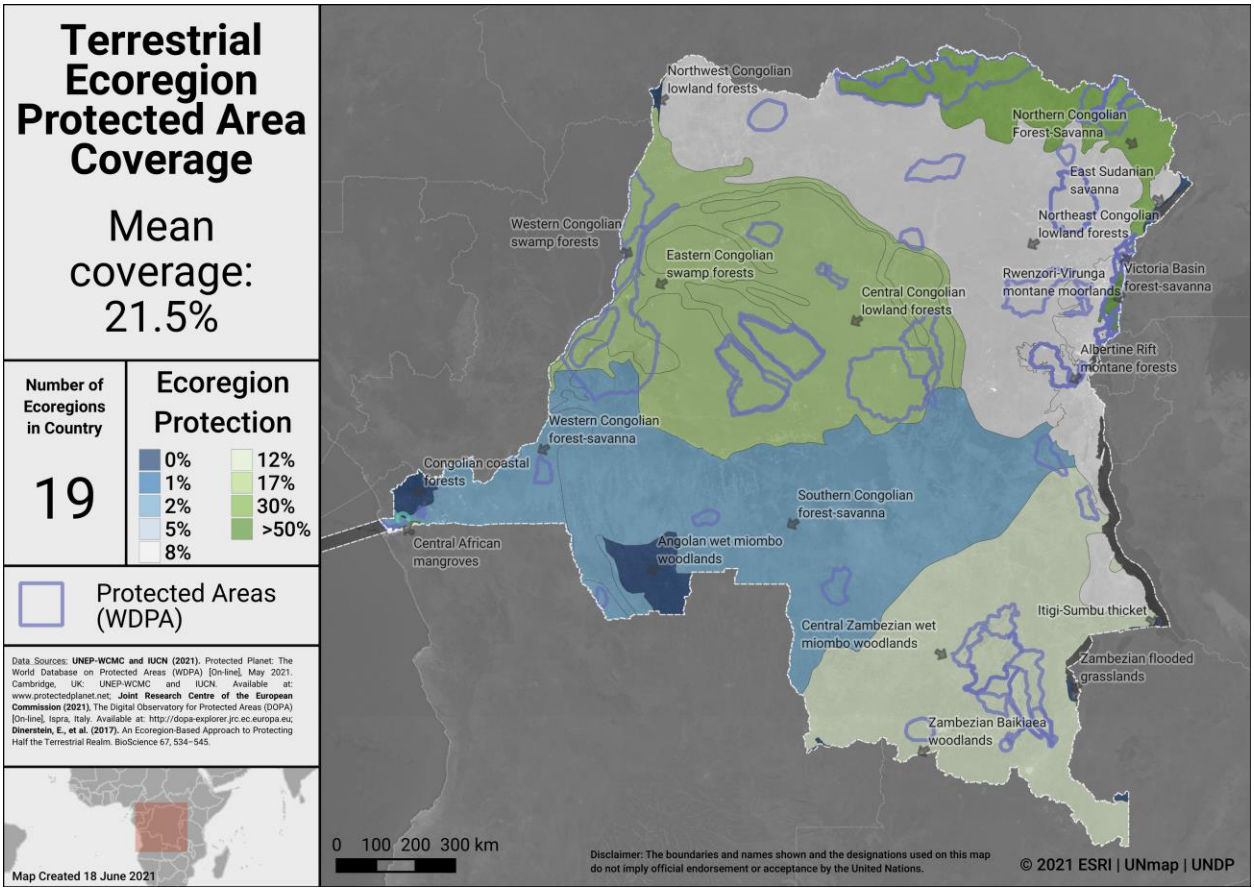
Congo (Democratic Republic of) has 19 **terrestrial** ecoregions. Out of these:

- 13 ecoregions have at least some coverage from PAs and OECMs.
- 7 ecoregions have at least 17% protected within the country.
- The average terrestrial coverage of ecoregions is 21.5%.

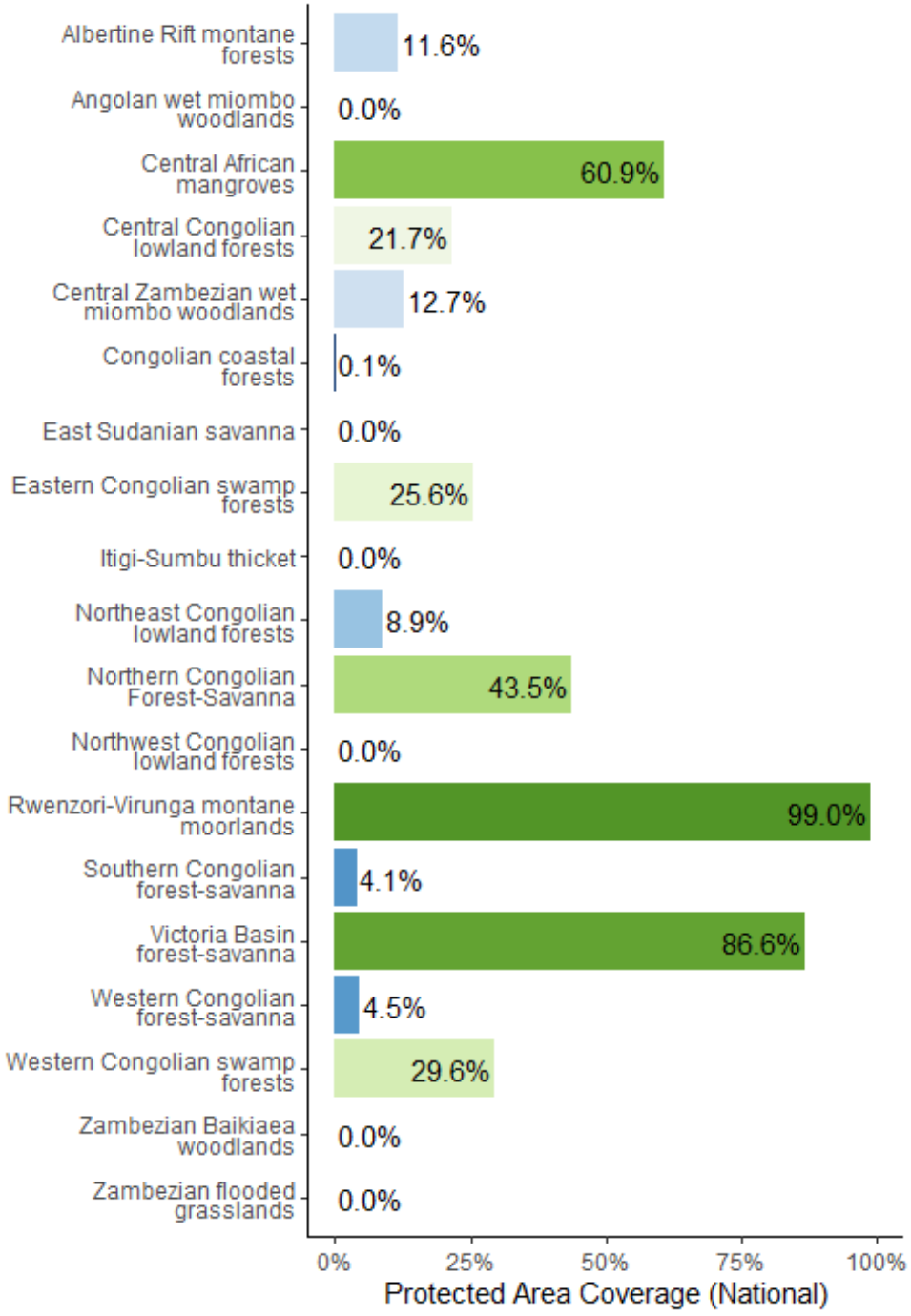
Congo (Democratic Republic of) has 1 **marine** ecoregion and 1 **pelagic province**. Out of these:

- Coverage from reported PAs and OECMs is 0.8% (marine ecoregion) and 0.0% (pelagic province)

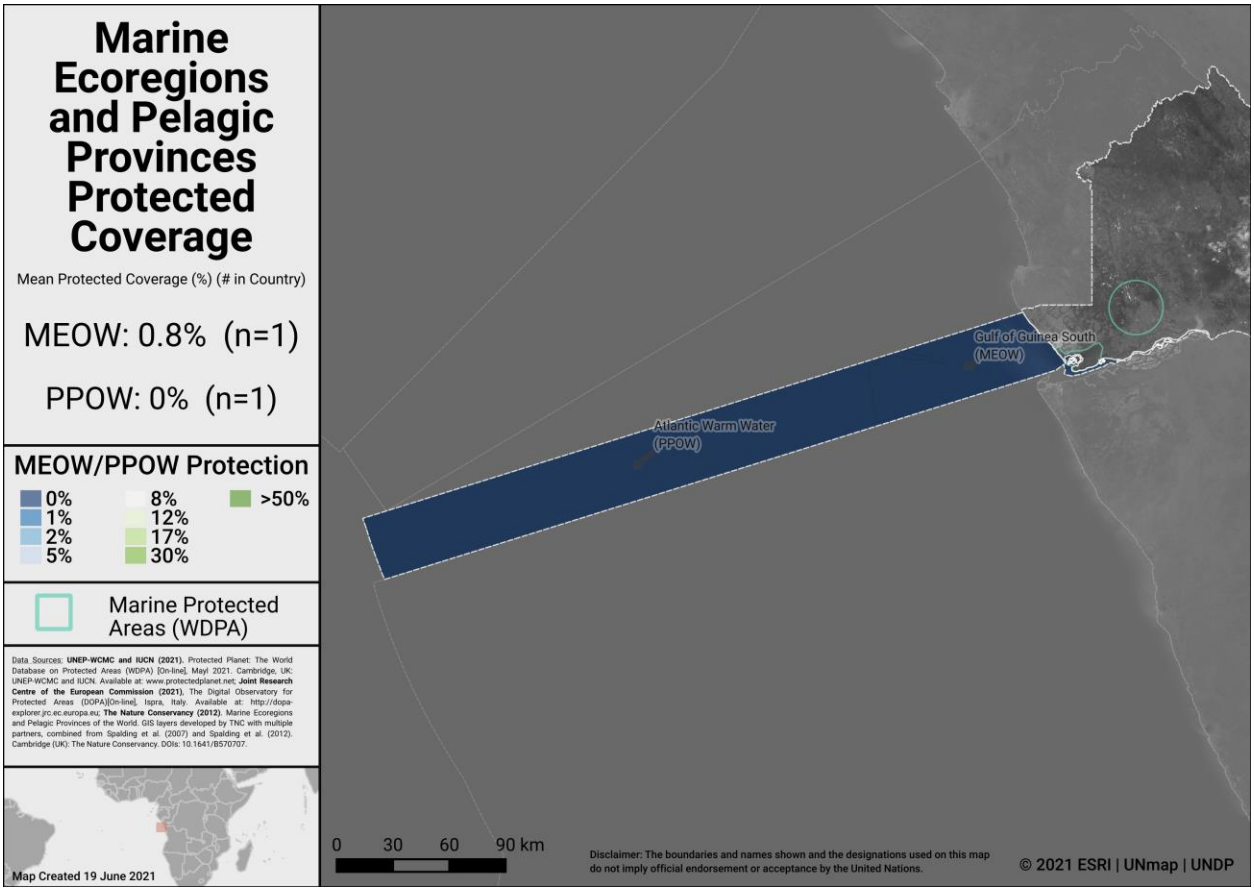
A full list of ecoregions in Congo (Democratic Republic of) is available in Annex I.



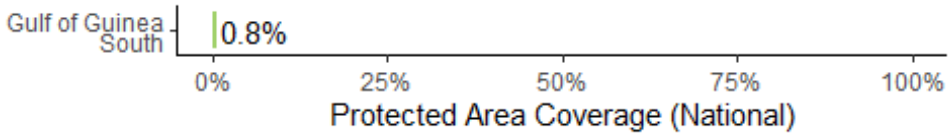
Terrestrial ecoregions in Congo (Democratic Republic of)



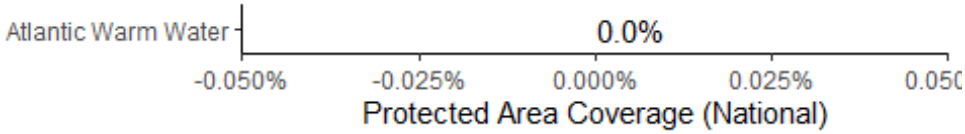
Terrestrial ecoregions of the World (TEOW) in Congo (Democratic Republic of)



Marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces



Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW) in Congo (Democratic Republic of)



Pelagic Provinces of the World (PPOW) in Congo (Democratic Republic of)

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Congo (Democratic Republic of) 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.

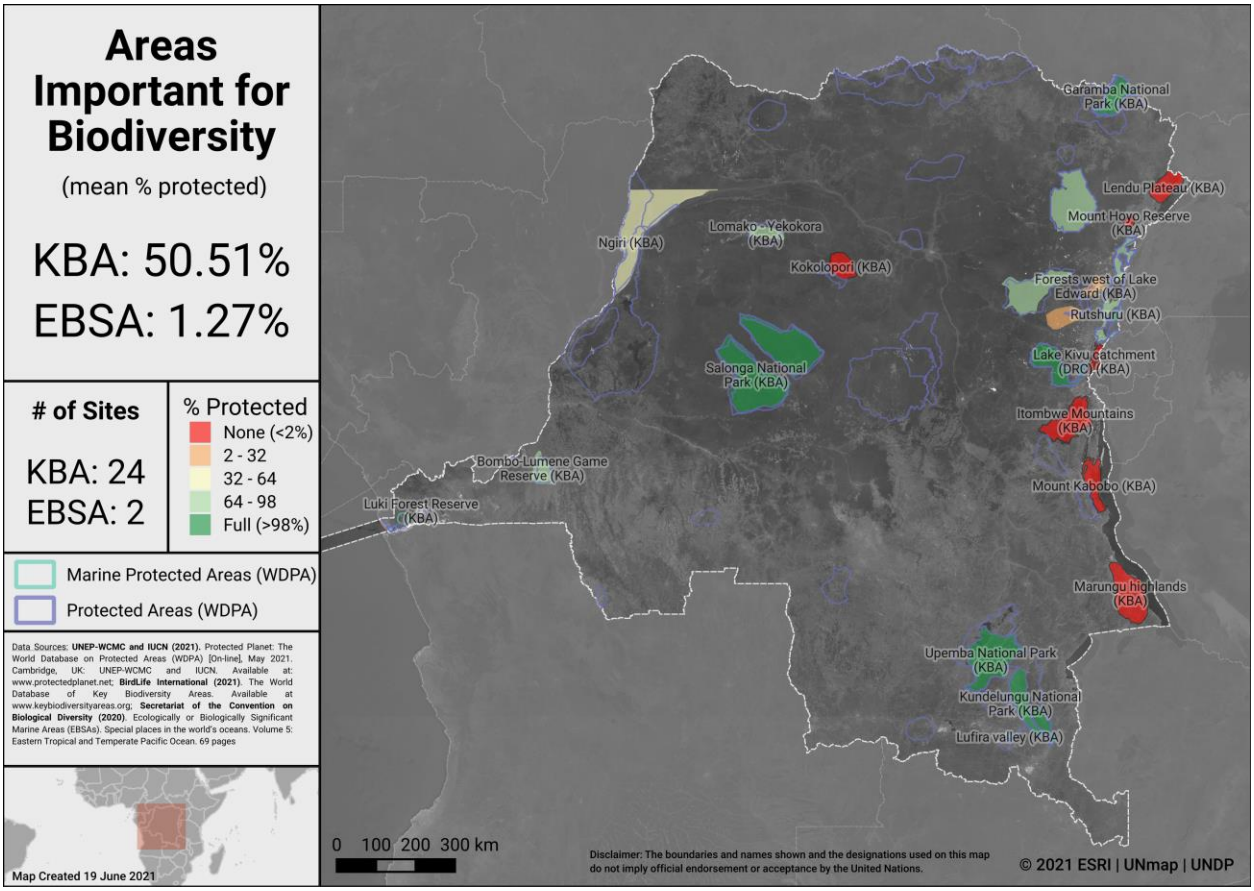
Congo (Democratic Republic of) has **24** Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

- Mean percent coverage of all KBAs by PAs and OECMs in Congo (Democratic Republic of) is **50.5%**.
- **6** KBAs have full (>98%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **10** KBAs have partial coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **8** KBAs have no (<2%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.

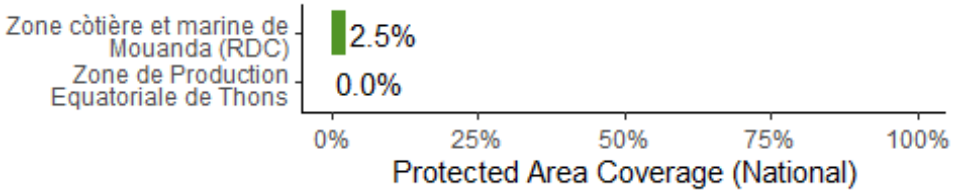
Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)

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.

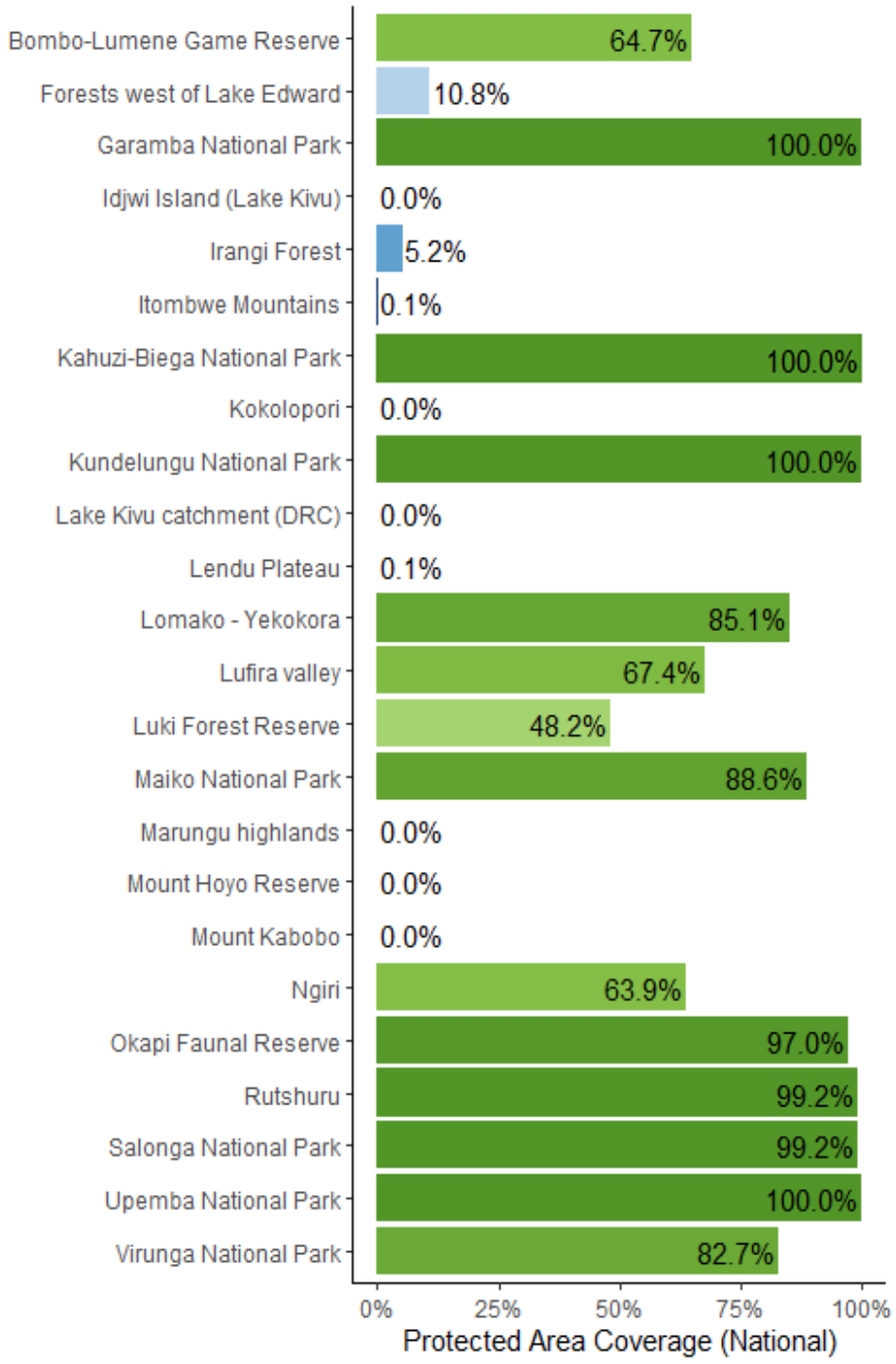
There are 2 EBSAs with some portion of their extent within Congo (Democratic Republic of)'s EEZ, of which 1 EBSA has no coverage from PAs or OECMs.



Areas Important for Biodiversity in Congo (Democratic Republic of)



Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in Congo (Democratic Republic of)



Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Congo (Democratic Republic of)

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Congo (Democratic Republic of) to increase protection of KBAs that have lower levels of coverage by PAs and OECMs; priority could be given to those with no current coverage.

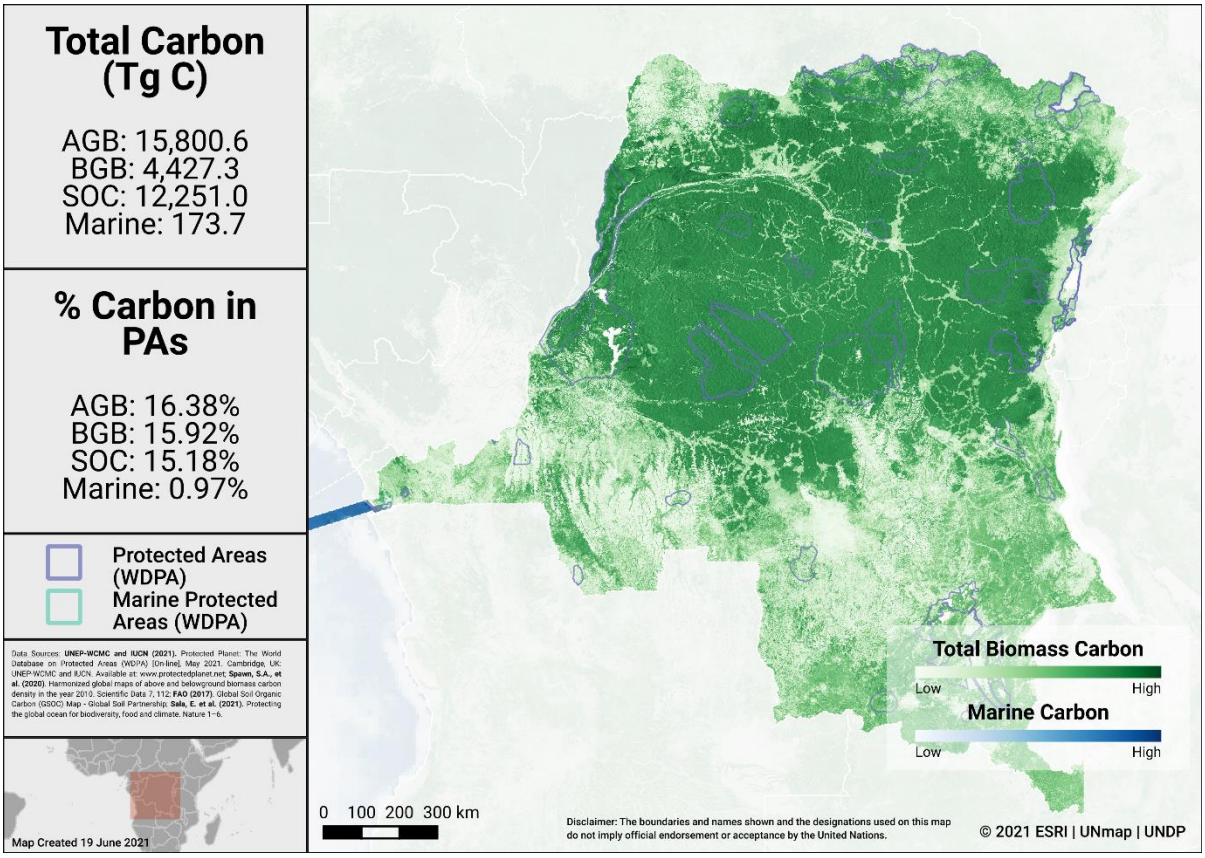
AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

There is no single indicator identified for assessing the conservation of areas important for ecosystem services. For simplicity, two services with available global datasets are assessed here (carbon and water). In future, other critical ecosystem services could be explored.

Carbon

Data for biomass carbon comes from temporally consistent and harmonized global maps of aboveground biomass and belowground biomass carbon density (at a 300-m spatial resolution); the maps integrate land-cover specific, remotely sensed data, and land-cover specific empirical models (see Spawn et al., 2020 for details on methodology). The Global Soil Organic Carbon Map present an estimation of SOC stock from 0 to 30 cm (see FAO, 2017). Data is also presented from global maps of marine sedimentary carbon stocks, standardized to a 1-meter depth (see Sala et al., 2021, and Atwood et al., 2020).

The map below presents the total carbon stocks in Congo (Democratic Republic of) and the percent of carbon in protected areas. The total carbon stocks is 15,800.6 Tg C from aboveground biomass (AGB), with 16.4% in protected areas; 4,427.3 Tg C from below ground biomass (BGB), with 15.9% in protected areas; 12,251.0 Tg C from soil organic carbon (SOC), with 15.2% in protected areas; and 173.7 Tg C from marine sediment carbon, with 1.0% in protected areas.



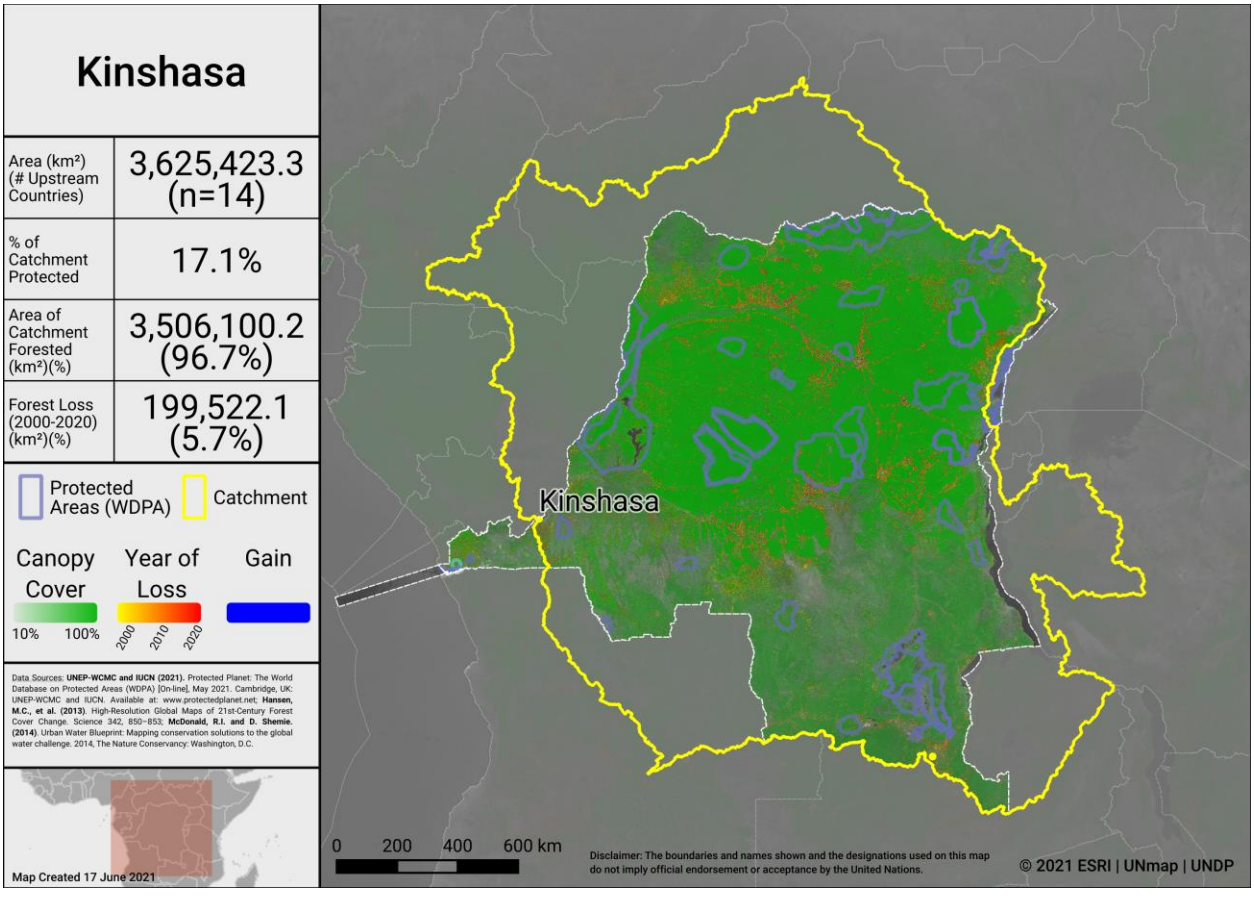
Carbon Stocks in Congo (Democratic Republic of)

Water

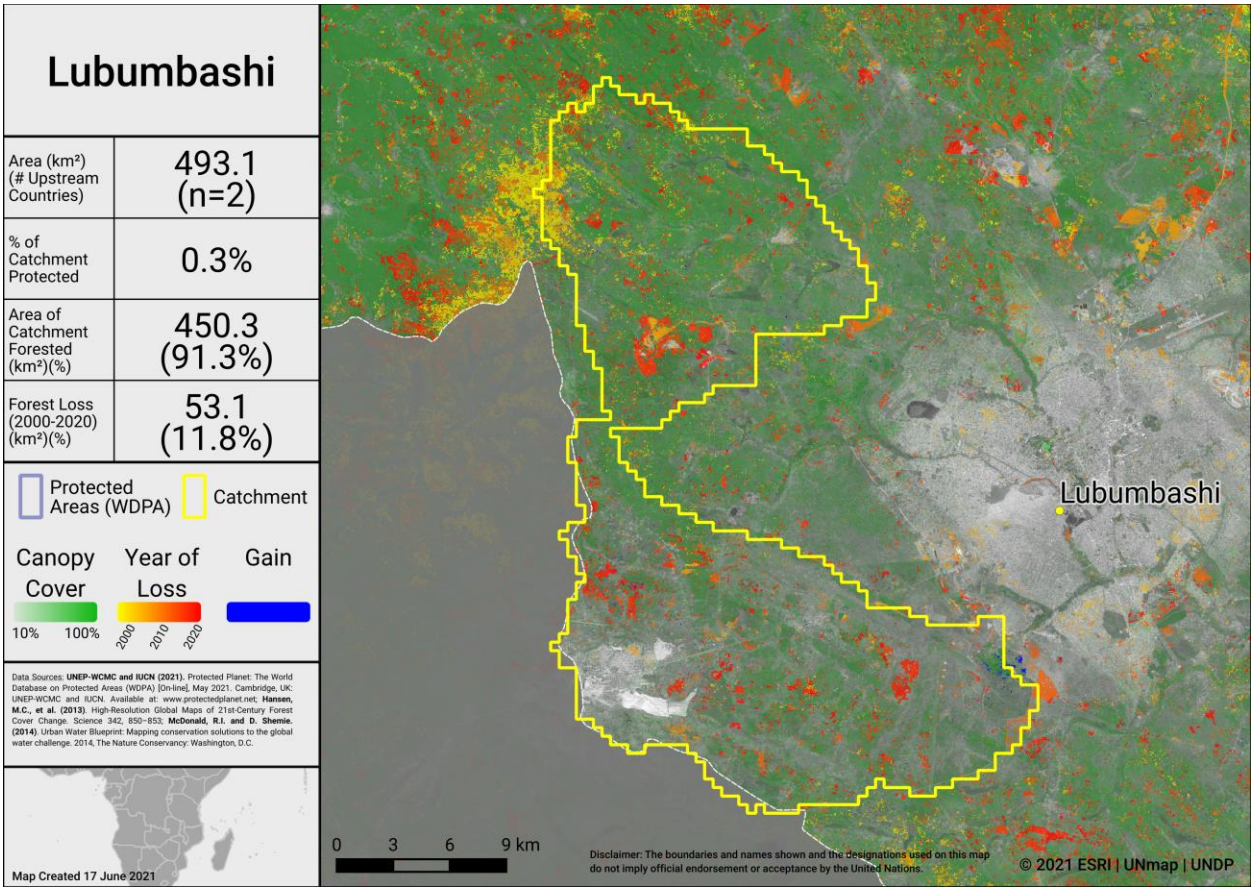
Information on the water sources for 534 cities is available via the City Water Map (CWM) and provides details on the catchment area of the watershed that supplies these cities (see McDonald et al., 2014 for details on methodology).

Forests support stormwater management and clean water availability, especially for large urban populations. Research that has examined the role of forests for city drinking water supplies shows that of the world's 105 largest cities, more than 30% (33 cities) rely heavily on the local protected forests, which provide ecosystem services that underpin local drinking water availability and quality (Dudley & Stolton, 2003).

Drinking water supplies for cities in Congo (Democratic Republic of) may similarly depend on protected forest areas within and around water catchments. The maps below show the percentage forest cover and the forest loss from 2000-2020 in the most heavily populated water catchments of Congo (Democratic Republic of). Intact catchments can support more consistent water supply and improved water quality.



Water supply area for the city of Kinshasa



Water supply area for the city of Lubumbashi

Opportunities for action

For carbon, there is opportunity for Congo (Democratic Republic of) to increase PA and OECM coverage in both marine and terrestrial areas with high carbon stocks, as identified in the map above. Protecting areas with high carbon stocks secures the benefits of carbon sequestration in the area.

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

CONNECTIVITY & INTEGRATION

Two global indicators, the Protected Connected land indicator (ProtConn; EC-JRC, 2021; Saura et al., 2018) and the PARC-Connectedness indicator (CSIRO, 2019), have been proposed for assessing the terrestrial connectivity of PA and OECM networks. To date there is no global indicator for assessing marine connectivity, though some recent developments include proposed guidance for the treatment of connectivity in the planning and management of MPAs (see Lausche et al., 2021).

Protected Connected Land Indicator (Prot-Conn)

As of January 2021, as reported in the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission's Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) (JRC, 2021), the coverage of protected-connected lands (a measure of the connectivity of terrestrial protected area networks, assessed using the ProtConn indicator) in Congo (Democratic Republic of) was 4.4%.

PARC-Connectedness Index

In 2019, as assessed using the PARC-Connectedness Index (values ranging from 0-1, indicating low to high connectivity), connectivity in Congo (Democratic Republic of) is 0.51. This represents an increase from 0.50 in 2010.

Corridor case studies

Below are details from a case study on corridors and connectivity in Congo (Democratic Republic of):

Case study title	Type of study region	Greatest threat to connectivity	Approaches to conserving ecological corridors
Conserving six landscapes of the Albertine Rift to ensure connectivity	terrestrial, rural	habitat loss and fragmentation	• facilitating cooperation • developing sustainable-use community areas

Further details are available in Hilty et al 2020.

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for a targeted designation of PAs or OECMs in strategic locations for connectivity 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 Congo (Democratic Republic of) reported in the WDPA have the following governance types:

- 3.8% are governed by **governments**
  - 1.9% by federal or national ministry or agency
  - 0.0% by sub-national ministry or agency
  - 1.9% by government-delegated management
- 1.9% are under **shared** governance (by collaborative governance)
- 0.0% are under **private** governance
- 0.0% are under **IPLC** governance
  - 0.0% by Indigenous Peoples
  - 0.0% by local communities
- 94.2% **do not** report a governance type

OECMs

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

Privately Protected Areas (PPAs)

From Gloss et al. (2019), a UNDP study on PPA data for Congo (Democratic Republic of):

- PPAs **are not** formally defined in PA legislation (however, the *Forest Code* deos provide for private conservation action in the context of state ownership through conservation concessions).
- PPAs **are not** directly identified in the Democratic Republic of Congo's recent NBSAP (however, it does include a call or promoting the creation of forest conservation concessions)
- PPAs **are not** included as part of the current PA network.

See full details in the Democratic Republic of Congo's country profile and summarized in Annex II.

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

There is currently no data available on ICCAs for Maldives (see Kothari et al., 2012 and the ICCA Registry for further details).

Other Indigenous lands

Lands managed and/or controlled by Indigenous Peoples cover an area of 534,009.0 km^2, of which 456,146.0 km^2 falls outside of formal protected areas. Indigenous lands with a human footprint less than 4 (considered as 'natural landscapes') cover an area of 196,763.0 km^2 (for details on analysis see Garnett et al., 2018).

For Congo (Democratic Republic of), evidence for the presence of Indigenous Peoples comes from: Indigenous Work Group on Indigenous Affairs. Indigenous World 2017 (Indigenous Working Group on Indigenous Affairs, 2017).

Boundaries of the lands Indigenous Peoples manage or have tenure rights over come from: Olivero, J. et al. Distribution and Numbers of Pygmies in Central African Forests. PloS One 11, e0144499 (2016).

Opportunities for action

Increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 94.2% 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 Congo (Democratic 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).

Equator Prize Projects

The Equator Initiative brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses and grassroots organizations to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities.

The Equator Prize projects provide examples of unique and locally based governance of natural resources. Congo (Democratic Republic of) has the following Equator Prize winners that showcase examples of local, sustainable community action:

Organization	Year	Project Description
La Dynamique des Groupes des Peuples Autochtones-Congo, Democratic Republic	2015	Started in 2005 to improve recognition of Indigenous pygmies rights in Congolese legislation, La Dynamique des Groupes des Peuples Autochtones is a network of 43 Indigenous Peoples organizations from across the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The group has lobbied for a legal framework in the DRC that promotes and protects the rights of Indigenous Peoples. In an ambitious 2014 campaign, the initiative also drafted legislation protecting the rights of Indigenous pygmies and organizing a historic, and successful, march of thousands of pygmies through the streets of Kinshasa to demand the law's adoption.The group aims to reduce poverty in Indigenous pygmy communities through the conservation and sustainable use of forests and applied traditional knowledge. Its advocacy work has stopped concessions for over 600,000 square kilometers of forest and has helped maintain a moratorium on the allocation of extractive industry concessions in the rainforest.

Photo from the Equator Prize Winner

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, Congo (Democratic Republic of) has 52 PAs reported in the WDPA; of these PAs, 23 (44.2%) have management effectiveness evaluations reported in the global database on protected area management effectiveness (GD-PAME).

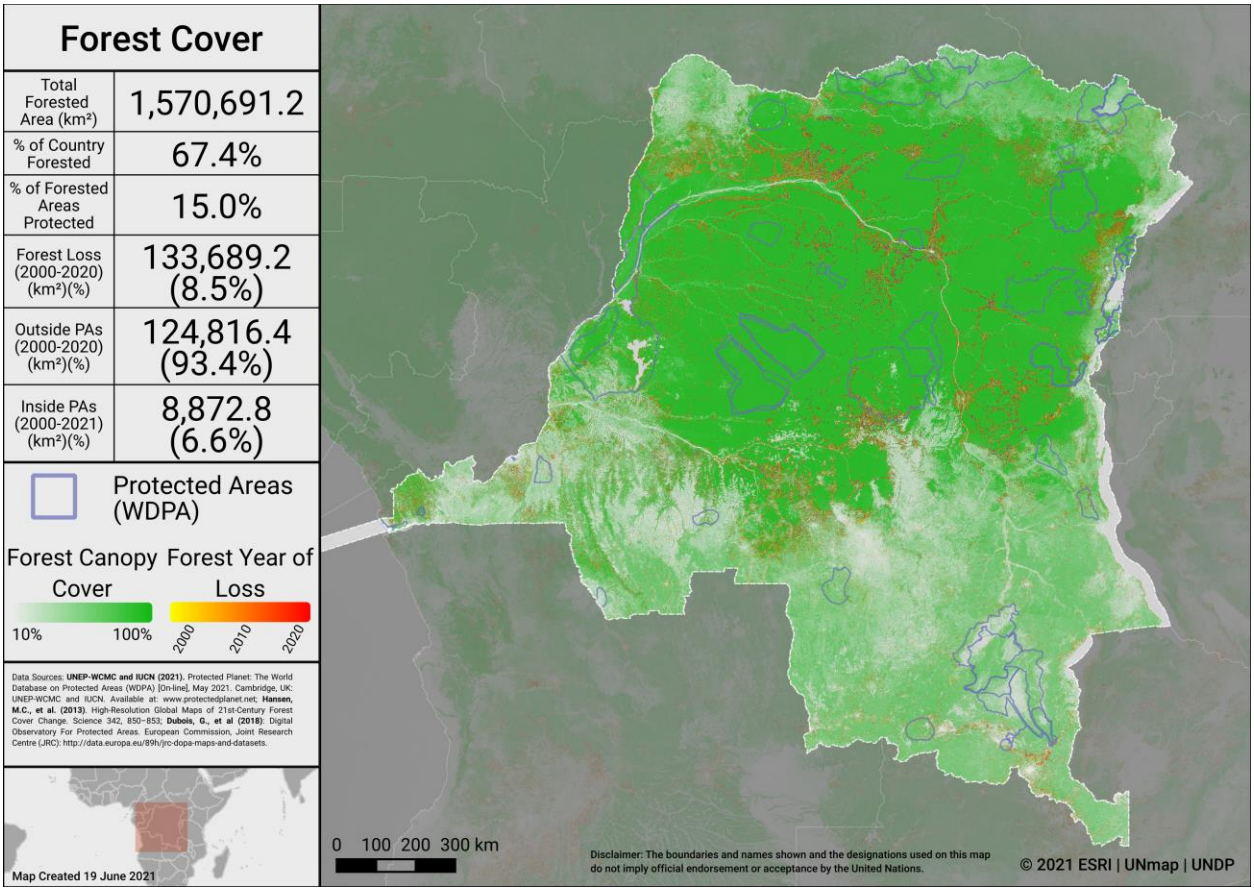
- 6.6% (155,840 km^2) of the terrestrial area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
  - 48.1% of the area of terrestrial PAs have completed evaluations.
- 0.2% (31 km^2) of the marine area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
  - 100.0% of the area of marine PAs have completed evaluations.

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

As of May 2021, there are 0 OECMs in Congo (Democratic Republic of) 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

Forested areas in Congo (Democratic Republic of) cover approximately 67.4% of the country, an area of 1,570,691.2 km^2. Approximately 15.0% (235,268.2 km^2) of this is within the protected area estate of Congo (Democratic Republic of). Over the period 2000-2020 loss of forest cover amounted to over 133,689.2 km^2, or 5.7% of the country (8.5% of forest area), of which 8,872.8 km^2 (6.6% of forest loss) occurred within protected areas. The map below shows how forest cover has changed in Congo (Democratic Republic of) 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 Congo (Democratic Republic of)

Opportunities for action

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

There is also opportunity to implement the results of completed PAME evaluations, to improve the quality of management for existing PAs and OECMs (e.g. through adaptive management and information sharing, increasing the number of sites reporting 'sound management') and to increase reporting of biodiversity outcomes in PAs and OECMs.

SECTION II: EXISTING PROTECTED AREA AND OECM COMMITMENTS

PRIORITY ACTIONS FROM 2015-2016 REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

National priority actions for Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 were provided by Parties following a series of regional workshops in 2015 and 2016. The Capacity-building workshop for Africa on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 took place 21 - 24 March 2016 in Entebbe, Uganda. 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 **8,703 km²** and increase coverage of marine areas by **305km²**. Bringing with them benefits for the other qualifying elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.

The following actions were identified during the workshops:

Terrestrial and marine coverage:

1) Proceed with the creation of new protected areas in the identified priority areas (Creating terrestrial protected areas covering about 1.5% of the territory) [PA increase of 26,461 km² (~1.1% of country) b/w workshop and 2020]
2) To develop and adopt standard management standards of a protected area.
3) Identify favorable areas for the creation of new transboundary protected areas.
4) Refresh inventory of biological resources.

Ecological representation:

1) Rehabilitate the Biosphere Reserve of the Valley Lufira for forest protection type "Miombo".
2) Strengthen hunting reserves located in ecoregions center of the country in the large Bandundu, Grand Kasai and Uele in the north.
3) Increase the area of protected areas in the marine ecoregion to return the percentage under protection to at least 10% on their entire worldwide coverage (Gulf of Guinea South marine ecoregion in DRC, covers 3,357 km², of which 31km² already protected)].

Areas Important for biodiversity and ecosystem services:

1) Create at least one protected area in the following sites forming unprotected IBAs in DRC: Lendu Plateau (in Ituri); Mount Hoyo (in Ituri); Mount Kabobo (North Katanga); Trays Marungu (North Kivu); Mountains Intombwe (South Kivu) &
2) Create at least one protected area in the following sites forming unprotected AZEs DRC: Mountains Intombwe (South Kivu); Forests Kokolopori (to Tshuapa).
3) Promote the effective implementation of the National Law on Hunting and that relating to the Conservation of Nature and the Forest Code.
4) Promoting sustainable forestry by effective support for implementation of the principles of "Community Forestry" in the DRC.
5) Identify nationally ecosystems that provide essential services.
6) Develop and implement with the other entities of the State and stakeholders' valuation of biodiversity mechanisms.

Connectivity:

1) Strengthen the effective networking of protected areas.
2) Strengthen the functioning of executive dialogues and exchanges between different actors and stakeholders involved in biodiversity management.

Management effectiveness:

1) To develop and adopt standard management standards of a protected area.
2) Strengthen the effective networking of protected areas.
3) Improving working conditions in terms of infrastructure, training and equipment in the management of protected areas.
4) Increase the share of national budget allocated to biodiversity.
5) Increase the capital of the Okapi funds for protected areas.
6) To pass the draft law on biosafety.
7) Develop the consolidation procedure guide the network of protected areas.
8) Obtain the classification, reclassification and declassification of protected areas.
9) Provide protected areas of registration certificates.
10) Initiate the process of defining the legal status and extent of buffer zones.
11) Identify and implement measures to reduce the impacts of mining on biodiversity.
12) Ensure the implementation of the regulations relating to bushfires.

13) Strengthening control measures at borders to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species.

14) Develop and implement legal and institutional framework for regional planning.

15) To pass the draft law on fishing.

16) Build human capacities, material and financial administration in charge of biodiversity management.

Governance and Equity:

1) Develop regulatory measures on access and benefit sharing.

2) Develop a national strategy on ABS.

Integration:

1) Proceed with the creation of new protected areas in the identified priority ecoregions.

2) Identify areas favorable to the creation of new transboundary protected areas.

OECMs: Validate the revised NBSAP.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

Congo (Democratic 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/).

National Objective 4.1: By 2017, the management of existing protected areas will be significantly improved

National Objective 4.2: By 2020, at least 17% of the national territory representing terrestrial and inland waters is conserved through a network of protected areas representative of the ecological regions of the country.

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

- As of May 2021 (based on the WDPA/WD-OECM) has the target been met: **NO**
- Accounting for other projects, actions and commitments, if this target is met, coverage in the country will increase by **45,534 km²**.

APPROVED GEF-5, GEF-6 PROTECTED AREA PROJECTS

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

This includes biodiversity projects from the fifth and sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-5 and GEF-6) with a clear impact of the quantity or quality of PAs; also including some projects occurring within the wider landscapes/seascapes around PAs. Only those with a status of 'project approved' or 'concept approved' as of June 2019 were considered. The qualifying elements likely benefiting from each GEF project is assessed based on a keyword search of Project Identification Forms (PIF).

GEF ID	PA increase?	Area to be added (km²)	Type of new protected area	Qualitative elements potentially benefitting (based on keyword search of PIFs)
4640	Yes	20,000	Terrestrial	Areas important for biodiversity; Effectively managed; Equitably managed
9760	No	N/A	N/A	Effectively managed; Integration
9802	No	N/A	N/A	Effectively managed; Equitably managed; Connectivity; Integration

OTHER ACTIONS/COMMITMENTS

High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

Congo (Democratic Republic of) **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.

Congo (Democratic Republic of)'s statement at the 2020 UN Biodiversity Summit mentions PAs, OECMs or corridors:

Firstly preservation, this is based on the idea of keeping the natural area as it is, which we do by creating protected areas. My country has extended its protected areas by 17%.

Commitments for PAs and OECMs from Other National Policies

Policy document	Ecosystem	Policy text
Nationally Determined Contribution	Forest ecosystems	Fight against bushfires
Nationally Determined Contribution	Coastal ecosystems	Protection and preservation of vulnerable ecosystems in coastal areas
United Nations Cooperation Framework Plan for Sustainable Development 2020-2024	Forest ecosystems	Reduce the deforestation rate from 0.3% to 0.2%
Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation	Forest ecosystems	Stabilize national forest cover to 63.5% from 2030
National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan	Forest ecosystems	Develop areas dedicated to forestry in order to ensure the conservation of biodiversity
National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan	Wetland ecosystems	Conserve inland water ecosystems
National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan	Wetland ecosystems	Designation of Ramsar sites of international importance
National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan	Coastal ecosystems	Conserve marine and coastal ecosystems

ANNEX I

FULL LIST OF TERRESTRIAL ECOREGIONS

Ecoregion Name	Area (km^2)	% of Global Ecoregion in Country	% of Country in Ecoregion	Area Protected (km^2)	% Protected in Country
Albertine Rift montane forests	94,448.9	62.8	4.1	10,974.0	11.6
Angolan wet miombo woodlands	28,763.3	6.4	1.2	0.0	0.0
Central African mangroves	726.3	2.4	0.0	442.6	60.9
Central Congolian lowland forests	412,881.8	100.0	17.7	89,731.1	21.7
Central Zambezian wet miombo woodlands	396,323.1	38.9	17.0	50,504.0	12.7
Congolian coastal forests	8,967.8	4.7	0.4	8.3	0.1
Eastern Congolian swamp forests	92,315.1	100.0	4.0	23,680.2	25.7
East Sudanian savanna	2,075.6	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Itigi-Sumbu thicket	527.0	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northeast Congolian lowland forests	481,763.6	94.0	20.7	42,827.9	8.9
Northern Congolian Forest-Savanna	131,602.1	18.7	5.6	57,303.0	43.5
Northwest Congolian lowland forests	1,386.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0
Rwenzori-Virunga montane moorlands	145.2	28.1	0.0	143.7	99.0
Southern Congolian forest-savanna	507,480.4	89.7	21.8	20,650.2	4.1

Ecoregion Name	Area (km^2)	% of Global Ecoregion in Country	% of Country in Ecoregion	Area Protected (km^2)	% Protected in Country
Victoria Basin forest-savanna	5,152.9	3.1	0.2	4,463.0	86.6
Western Congolian forest-savanna	85,431.6	22.8	3.7	3,874.8	4.5
Western Congolian swamp forests	55,832.8	43.6	2.4	16,517.5	29.6
Zambezian Baikiaea woodlands	34.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Zambezian flooded grasslands	1,967.0	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.0

ANNEX II

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PPAs

- All rights to land, water, mineral, and forest resources in the DRC are formally held by the national government; usufruct rights to land are assigned under a variety of legal frameworks
- Given state ownership of land in the DRC, the country does not have a formal definition for privately protected areas (PPAs). However, Forest Code of 2002 provides for a strategy for private conservation action in the context of state ownership through conservation concessions (CCs; *concession de conservation or concession forestière de conservation*); it is possible that conservation concessions in the DRC may one day be recognized as PPAs
- Publicly protected areas may also be privately managed (combined area of the DRC's two privately managed parks, Garamba and Virunga, is 1,270,617 ha)
- Although PPAs were not directly identified in the county's recent NBSAP, it does include a call to "promote the creation of forest conservation concessions" and sets forth a goal to increase ecotourism in PA network to help support their management
- UN-REDD+ provides one potential means for funding private conservation initiatives.

Case studies/best practices:

- *Conservation Concessions by the Bonobo Conservation Initiative*: manages three neighboring conservation concessions of forest areas in the Équateur province of central DRC (total area of 603,470 ha); the new PAs contribute to a larger network of community forest concessions and community-managed nature reserves, including the Sankuru Nature Reserve, stretching along the southern edge of the Congo River
- *Private Management in Virunga National Park*: covers 776,893 ha along the DRC's eastern edge; Park is run cooperatively by ICCN and the non-profit Virunga Foundation (VF); this public-private partnership was established in 2005 and is contracted to run through 2021
- *Mai Ndombe REDD+ Project*: two former logging concessions along the shore of Lake Mai Ndmobe converted to conservation concessions, conserving 299,645 ha; project seeks to balance conservation with development.

See additional info in country profile (http://nbsapforum.net/knowledge-base/resource/democratic-republic-congo-country-profile-international-outlook-privately).

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