Convention on Biological Diversity

UNDP

Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: SRI LANKA

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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

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this dossier do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) or United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The information contained in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the SCBD or UNDP.

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document provides information on the coverage of protected areas (PAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), as currently reported in global databases (the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM)). It also includes details on the status of the other qualifying elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 based on this data. These statistics might differ from those reported officially by countries due to difference in methodologies and datasets used to assess protected area coverage, differences in the base maps used to measure terrestrial and marine area of a country or territory, or if global datasets differ from the criteria and indicators used at the national level. This dossier also provides a summary of commitments made under Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, and a summary of potential opportunities regarding elements of the target for future planning.

The dossier has been developed in consultation with the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), which manages the WDPA, WD-OECM and Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME). Parties to the CBD are requested to contact protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org with any updates to the information in these databases.

Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Elements: Current status and opportunities for action

Coverage - Terrestrial & Marine

- **Status:** as of May 2021, terrestrial coverage in Sri Lanka is 19,897.5 km^2 (29.9%) and marine coverage is 398.6 km^2 (0.1%).
- **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:** Sri Lanka contains 4 terrestrial ecoregions, 1 marine ecoregion, and 1 pelagic province: the mean coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 19.5% (terrestrial), 0.8% (marine), and 0.0% (pelagic); 1 pelagic province has no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Sri Lanka 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:** Sri Lanka has 72 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): the mean coverage of KBAs by reported PAs and OECMs is 43.7%, while 24 KBAs have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka, 42.4% of aboveground biomass carbon, 36.0% of belowground biomass carbon, 23.0% of soil organic carbon, 0.1% of carbon stored in marine sediments is covered by PAs and OECMs.

- **Opportunities for action:** for carbon, there is opportunity for Sri Lanka 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 24.9%.

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity to focus on PA and OECM management for enhancing and maintaining connectivity. Increasing connectivity increases the effectiveness of PAs and OECMs and reduces the impacts of fragmentation.

- As well, a range of suggested steps for enhancing and supporting integration are included in the voluntary guidance on the integration of PAs and OECMs into the wider land- and seascapes and mainstreaming across sectors to contribute, inter alia, to the SDGs (Annex I of COP Decision 14/8).

Governance Diversity

- **Status:** the most common governance type(s) for reported PAs in Sri Lanka is: 84.2% under Government (Federal or national ministry or agency).

- **Opportunities for action:** explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation, for Sri Lanka this could relate to governance by Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities (IPLC), shared governance, etc. Increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 15.8% of sites that do not have their governance type reported.

- There is also opportunity for Sri Lanka 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:** 3.2% of terrestrial PAs and 0.0% 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 not** been met for marine PAs. Therefore, there is opportunity to increase protected area management effectiveness (PAME) evaluations for both terrestrial and marine 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 Sri Lanka. Section I of the dossier presents data on the current status of Sri Lanka'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 Sri Lanka, in relation to each Target 11 element. The analyses present options for improving Sri Lanka's area-based conservation network to achieve enhanced protection and benefits for livelihoods and climate change. Section II presents details on Sri Lanka'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.

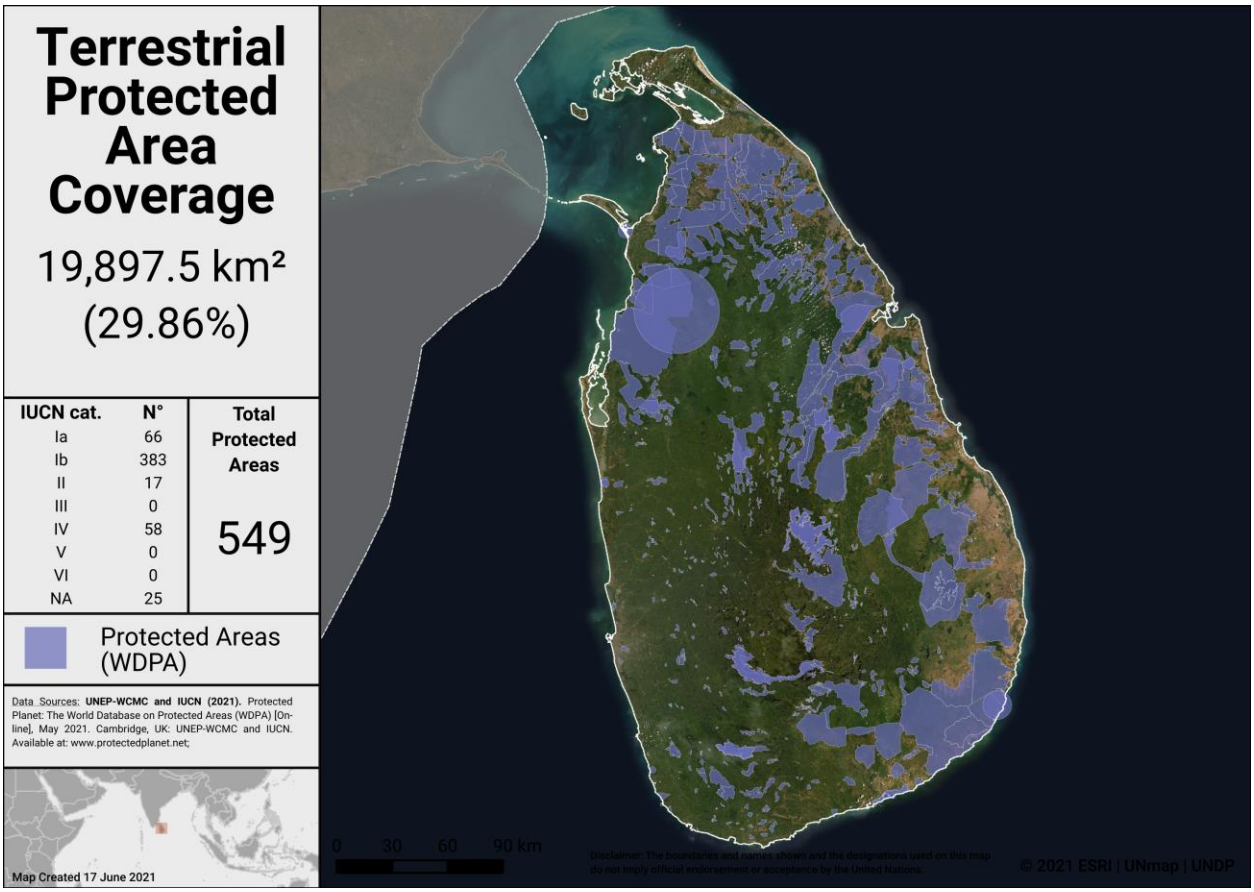
COVERAGE - TERRESTRIAL & MARINE

As of May 2021, Sri Lanka has **660** protected areas reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). 103 proposed PAs, and a further 4 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**).

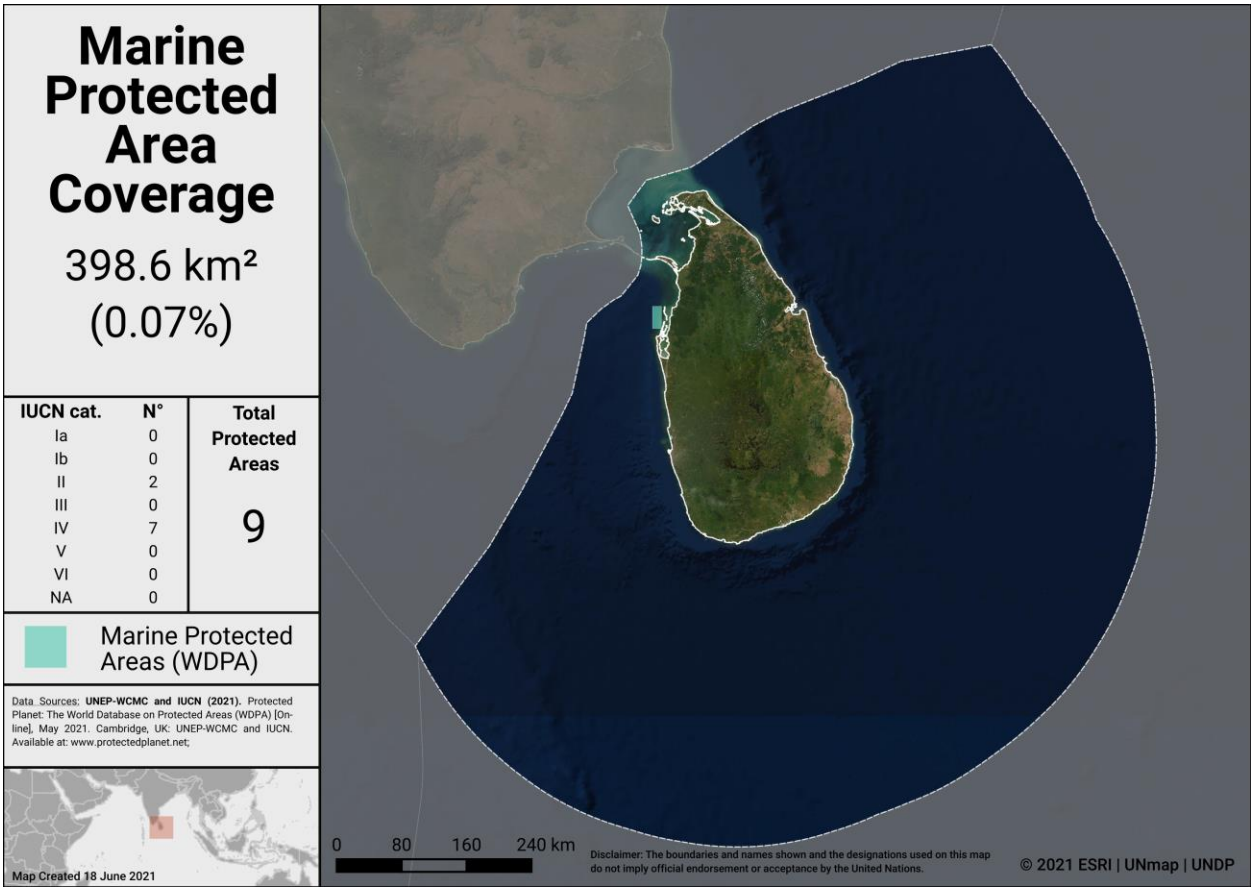
As of May 2021, Sri Lanka has **0** OECMs reported in the world database on OECMs (WD-OECM).

Current coverage for Sri Lanka:

- 29.9% terrestrial (549 protected areas, 19,897.5 km^2)
- 0.1% marine (9 protected areas, 398.6 km^2)



Terrestrial Protected Areas in Sri Lanka



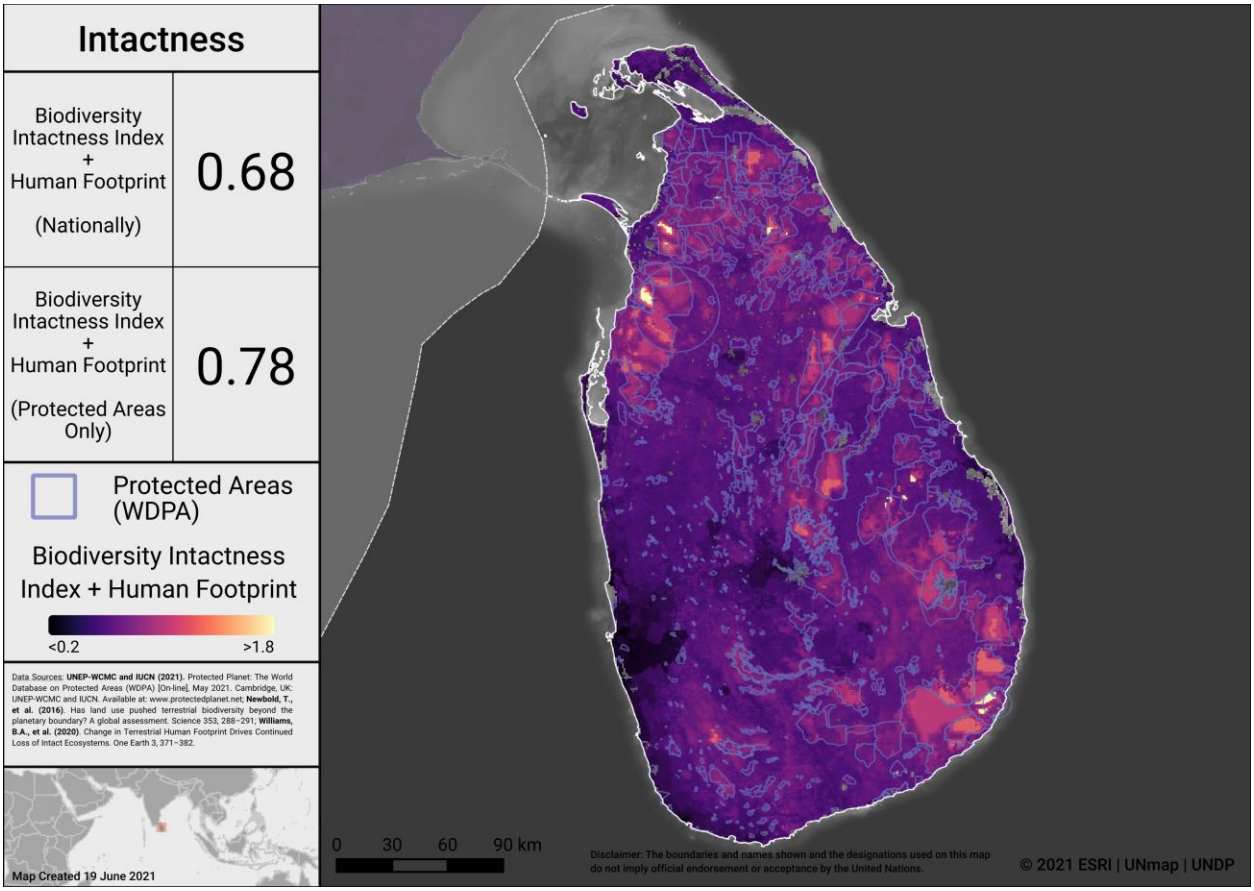
Marine Protected Areas in Sri Lanka

Potential OECMs

There are currently no examples of potential OECMs for Sri Lanka.

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 Sri Lanka considers where to add new PAs and OECMs, the map below identifies areas in Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka

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).

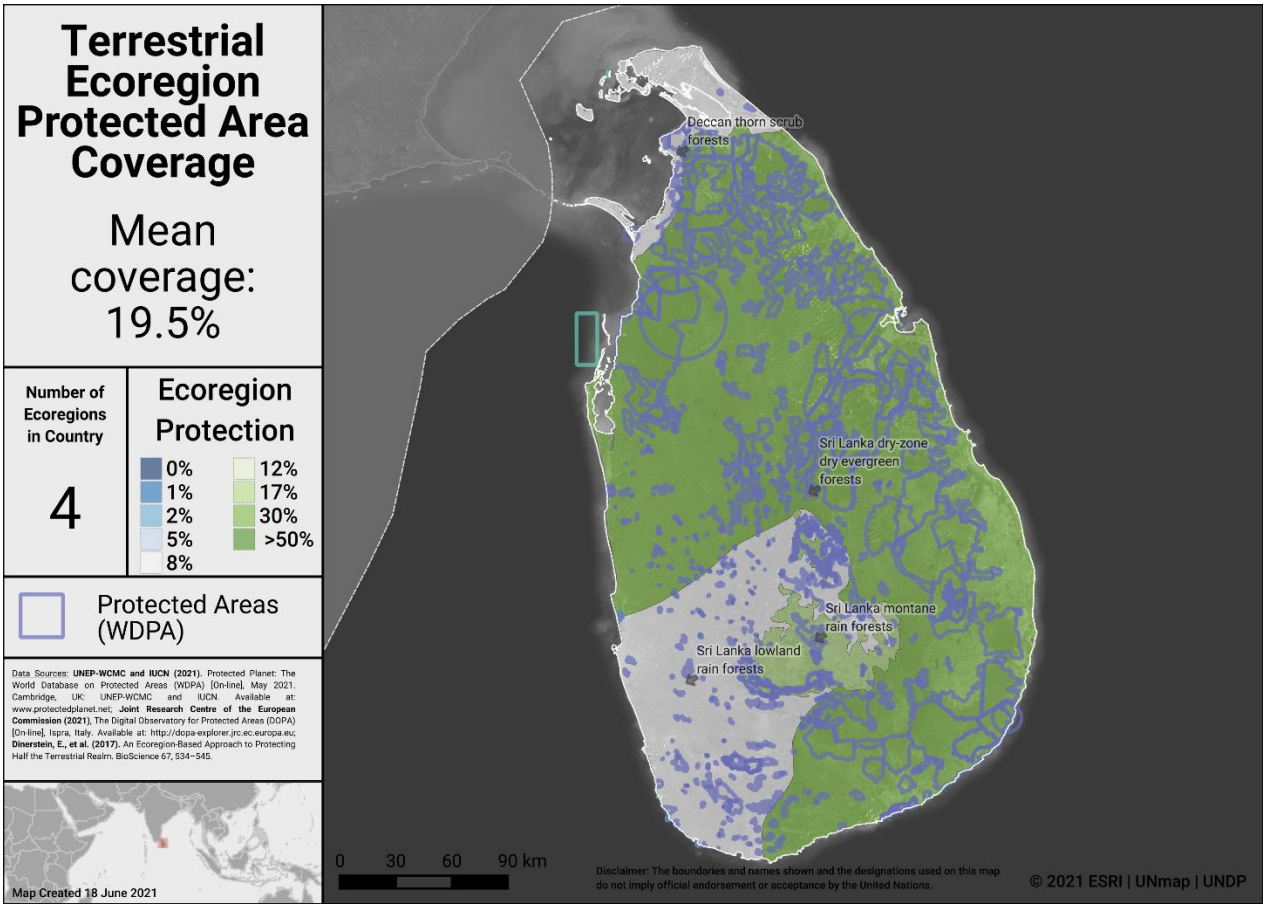
Sri Lanka has 4 **terrestrial** ecoregions. Out of these:

- All 4 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 19.5%.

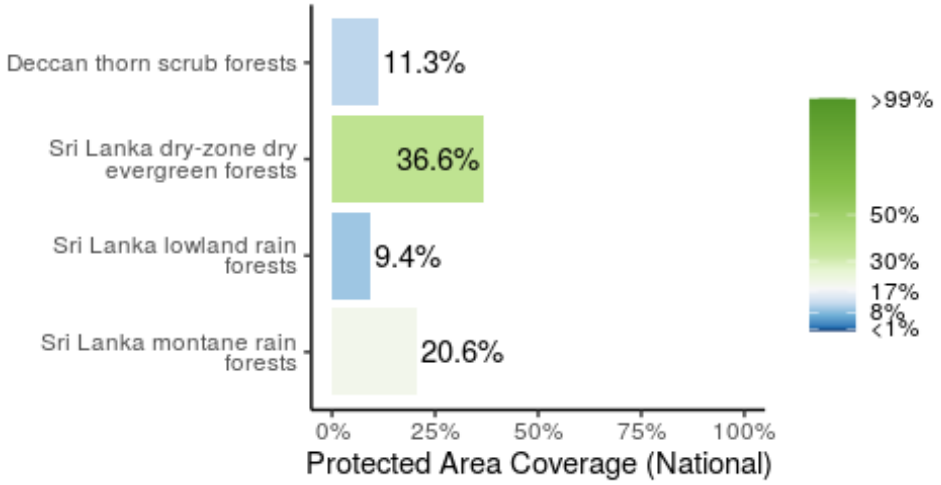
Sri Lanka has 1 **marine** ecoregion and 1 **pelagic province**:

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

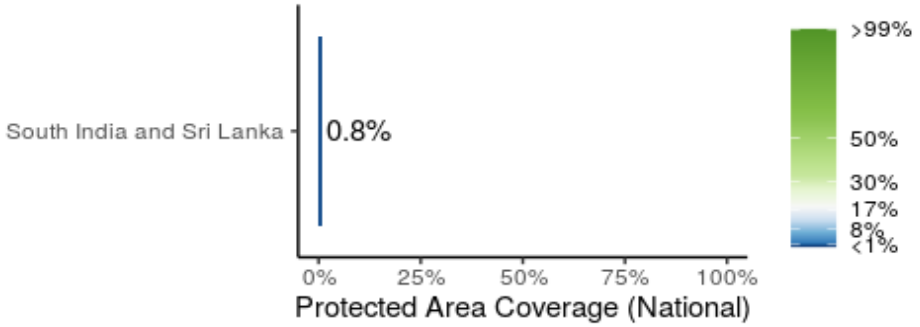
A full list of terrestrial ecoregions in Sri Lanka is available in Annex I.



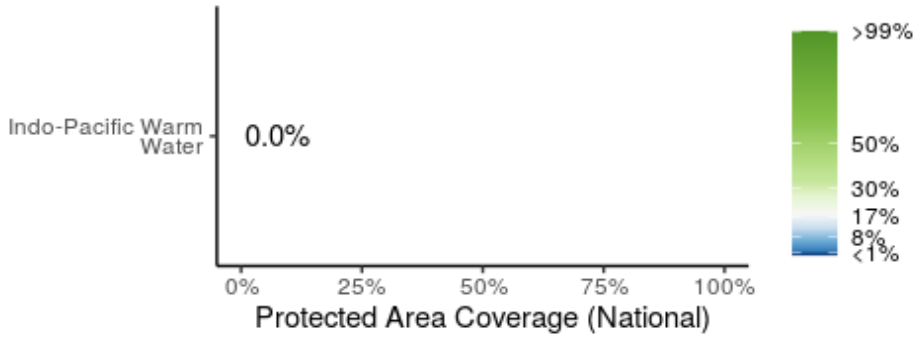
Terrestrial ecoregions in Sri Lanka



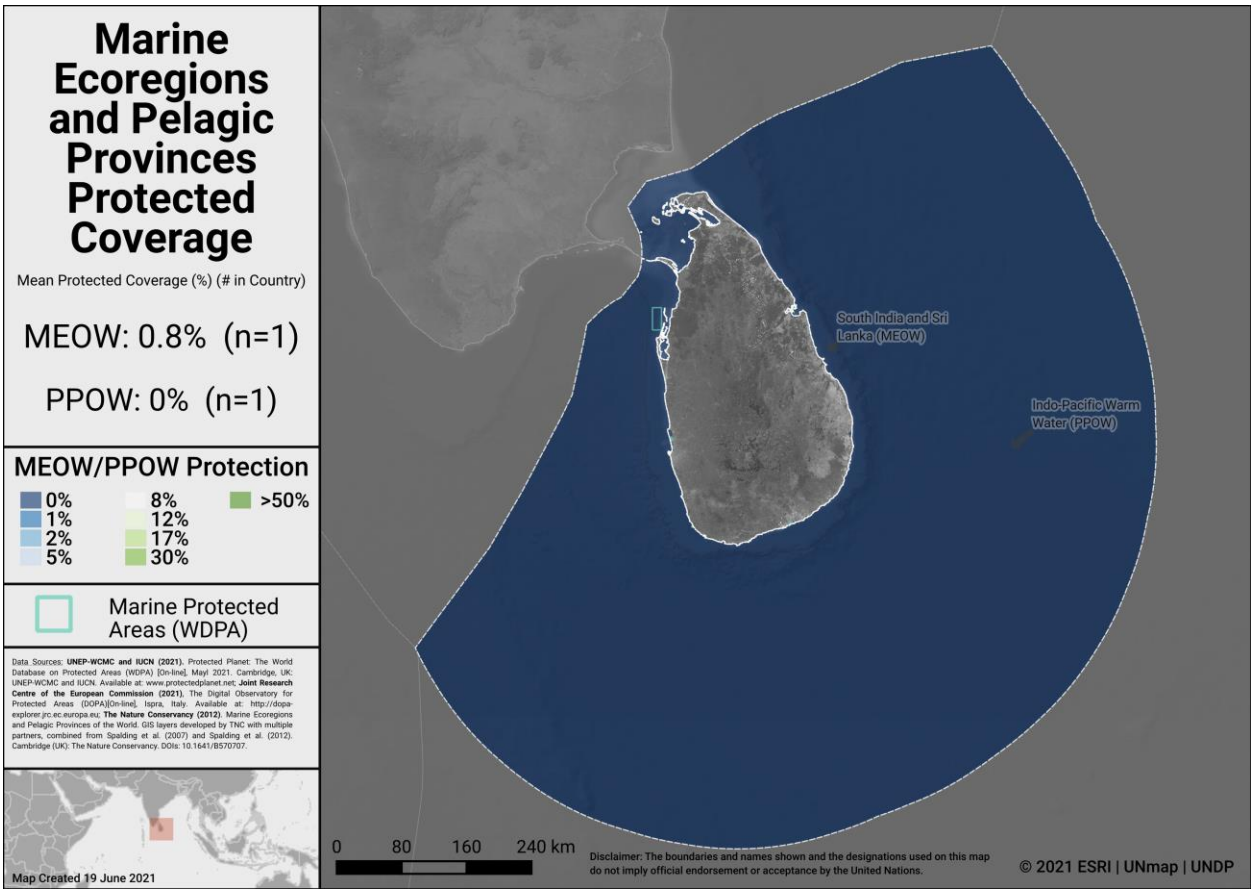
Terrestrial ecoregions of the World (TEOW) in Sri Lanka



Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW) in Sri Lanka



Pelagic Provinces of the World (PPOW) in Sri Lanka



Marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Sri Lanka 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.

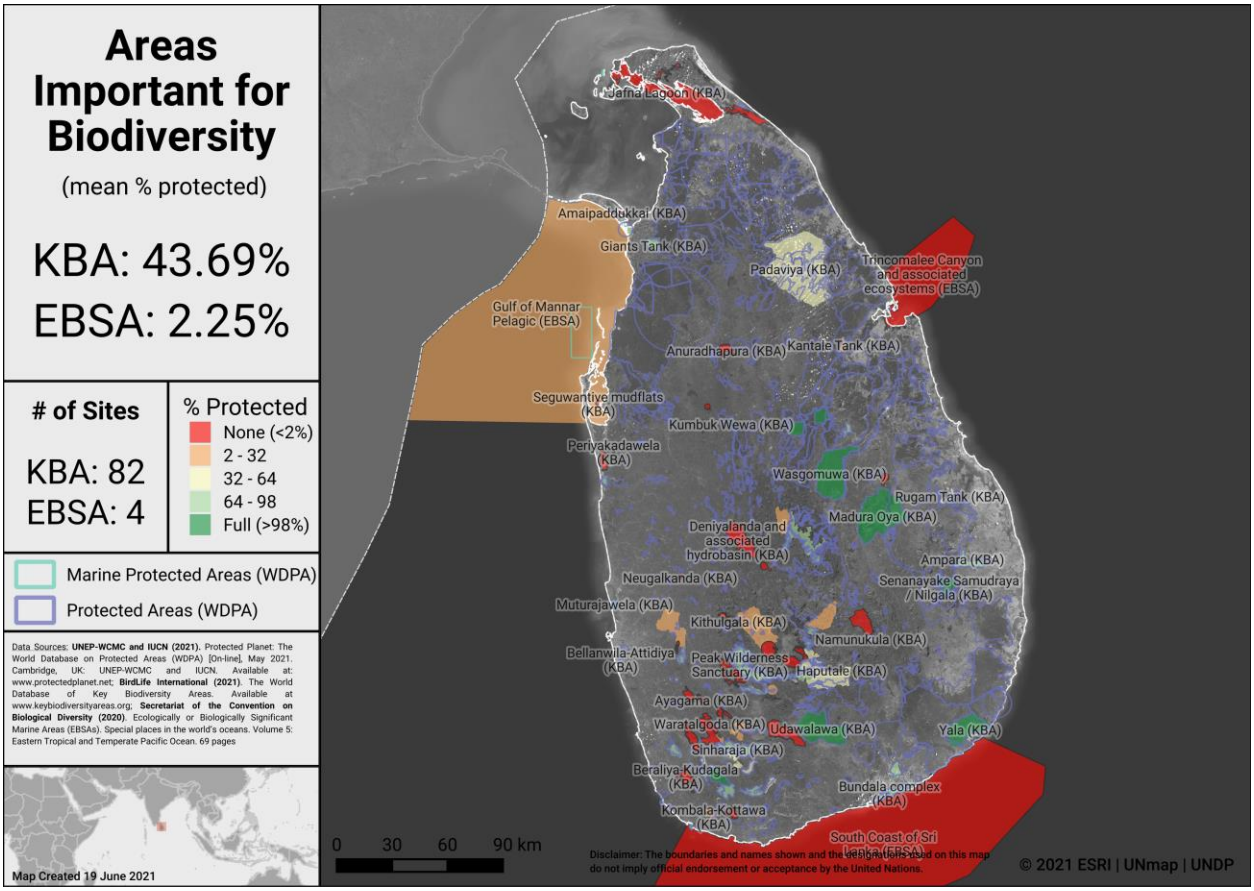
Sri Lanka has 82 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) [only **72** included in analysis].

- Mean percent coverage of all KBAs by PAs and OECMs in Sri Lanka is **43.7%**.
- **8** KBAs have full (>98%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **40** KBAs have partial coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **24** KBAs have no (<2%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- *10 KBAs lack spatial data to allow PA and OECM coverage to be determined*

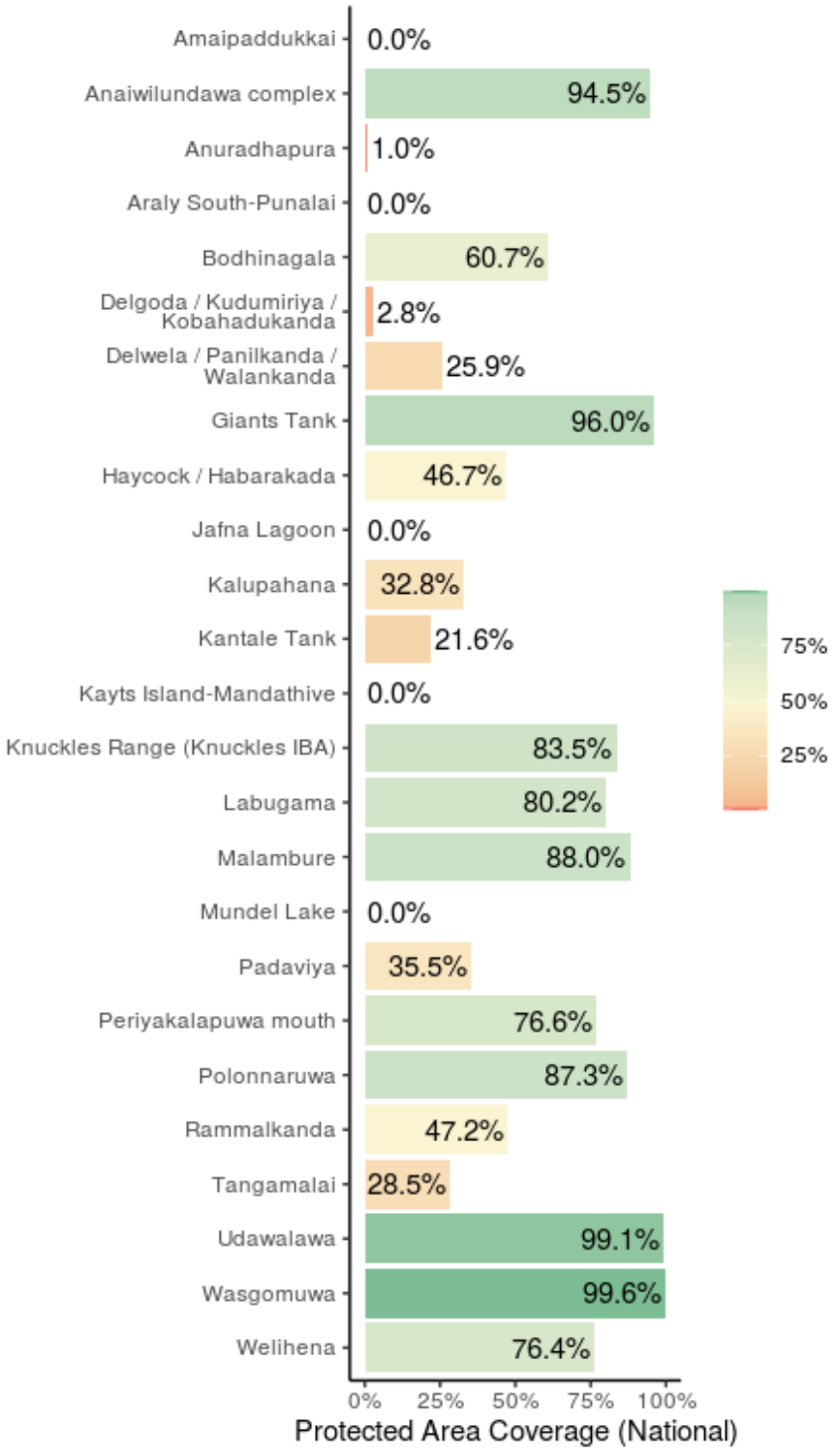
Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)

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.

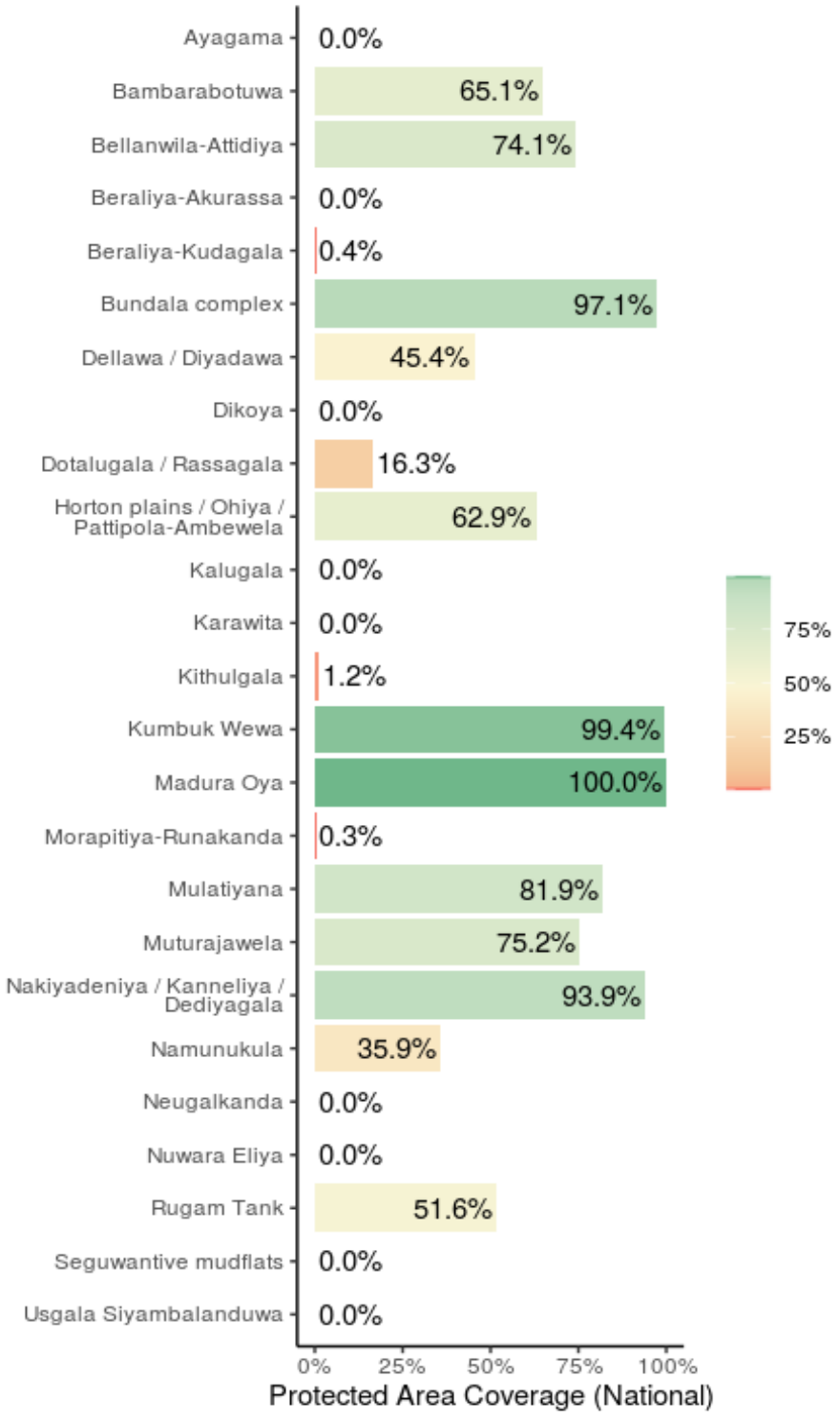
There are 4 EBSAs with some portion of their extent within Sri Lanka's EEZ, all of which have at least some coverage from PAs and OECMs.



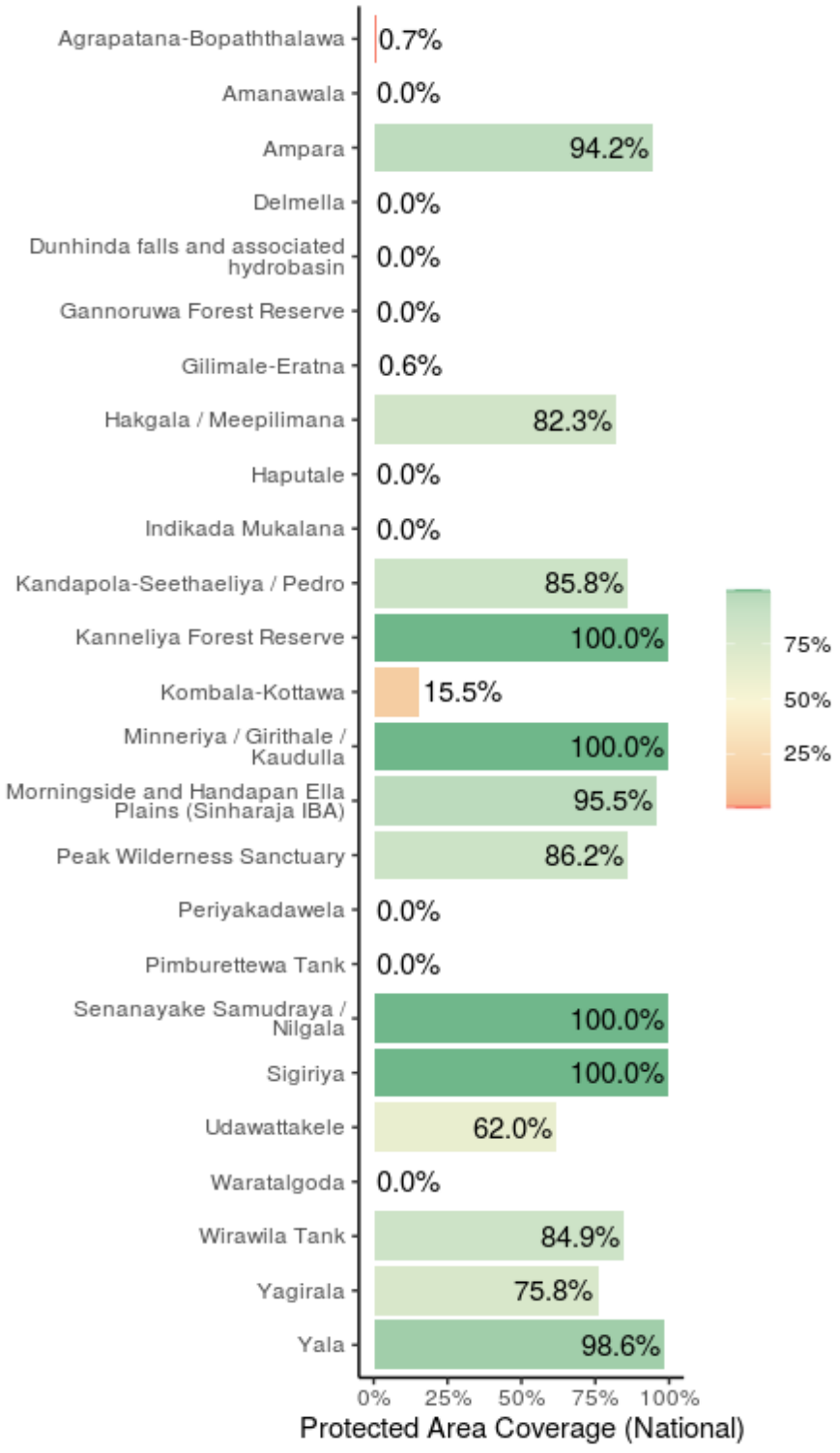
Areas Important for Biodiversity in Sri Lanka



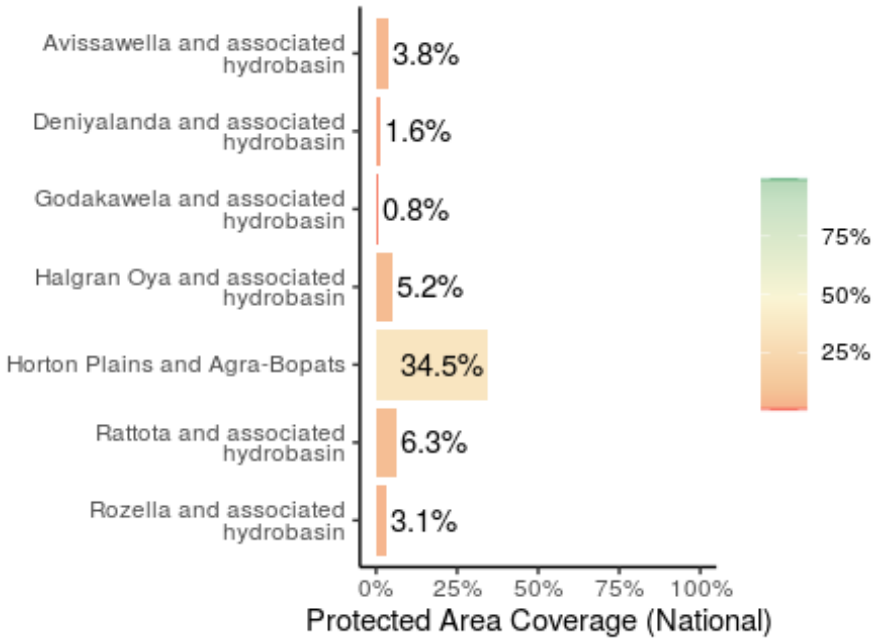
Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Sri Lanka



Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Sri Lanka



Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Sri Lanka



Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Sri Lanka

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Sri Lanka 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.

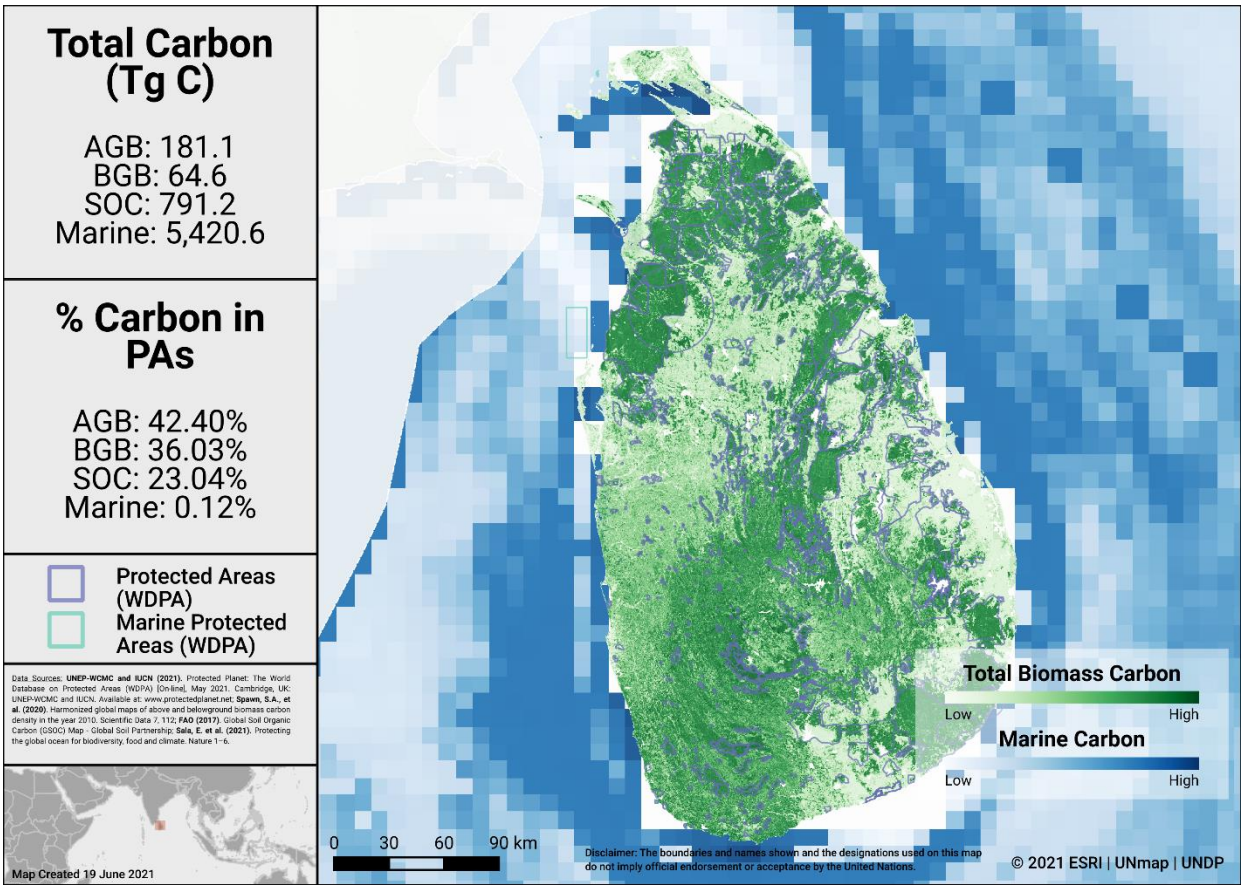
AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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 Sri Lanka and the percent of carbon in protected areas. The total carbon stocks is 181.1 Tg C from aboveground biomass (AGB), with 42.4% in protected areas; 64.6 Tg C from below ground biomass (BGB), with 36.0% in protected areas; 791.2 Tg C from soil organic carbon (SOC), with 23.0% in protected areas; and 5,420.6 Tg C from marine sediment carbon, with 0.1% in protected areas.



Carbon Stocks in Sri Lanka

Water

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

Drinking water supplies for cities in Sri Lanka may similarly depend on protected forest areas within and around water catchments. Intact catchments can support more consistent water supply and improved water quality.

Opportunities for action

For carbon, there is opportunity for Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka was 24.9% (JRC, 2021).

PARC-Connectedness Index

In 2019, as assessed using the PARC-Connectedness Index (values ranging from 0-1, indicating low to high connectivity), connectivity in Sri Lanka is 0.43. This represents an increase from 0.37 in 2010.

Corridor case studies

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

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity to focus on PA and OECM management for enhancing and maintaining connectivity. 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 Sri Lanka reported in the WDPA have the following governance types:

- 84.2% are governed by **governments** (by federal or national ministry or agency)
- 0.0% are under **shared** governance
- 0.0% are under **private** governance
- 0.0% are under **IPLC** governance
  - 0.0% by Indigenous Peoples
  - 0.0% by local communities
- 15.8% **do not** report a governance type

OECMs

As of May 2021, there are **0** OECMs in Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka:

- PPAs **are not** formally defined in PA legislation (however, the National Environmental Act offers other means of protecting land while allowing it to remain privately owned).
- PPAs **are** directly identified in Sri Lanka's recent NBSAP (however, the importance of expanding the PA network beyond State lands is mentioned)
- PPAs **are not** included as part of the current PA network.

See additional info in country profile and presented in Annex II.

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

There is currently no data available on ICCAs for Sri Lanka (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 715 km^2, of which 277 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 0 km^2 (for details on analysis see Garnett et al., 2018).

For Sri Lanka, 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: De Silva, P. & Punchihewa, A. G. Socio-anthropological research project on Vedda Community in Sri Lanka (Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Arts, 2011).

Opportunities for action

Explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation, for Sri Lanka this could relate to governance by Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities (IPLC), shared governance. Increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 15.8% of sites that do not have their governance type reported.

There is also opportunity for Sri Lanka 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. Sri Lanka has the following Equator Prize winners that showcase examples of local, sustainable community action:

Organization	Year	Project Description
Rush and Reed Conservation and Diversification Program	2004	The Committee for People's Rights (Podujana Himikam Kamituwa), a local NGO based in Kalutara District, southwestern Sri Lanka, has pioneered the reintroduction of rush and reed species to household paddy fields for processing into value-added handicraft products. The Rush and Reed Conservation and Diversification Program aims to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, to protect Indigenous and traditional knowledge associated with traditional handicrafts, to conserve biodiversity and wetland ecosystems through a participatory approach, and to provide opportunities to the local population for alternative income-generating avenues. Since 1999, the initiative has provided training for more than 2,500 households in 11 districts in Sri Lanka; those involved in the program have seen average monthly household incomes double thanks to improved production techniques and marketing support.

Organization	Year	Project Description
Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society (SLWCS)	2008	Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society (SLWCS) works to enable communities across the country to balance ecosystem protection and economic development by exploring ways to resolve human-elephant conflict through community development, capacity building, and research. Recognizing that one of the biggest threats to elephants in Sri Lanka is conflict with humans, often through crop raiding, and that human settlements are increasingly encroaching further into elephant habitat, the initiative has worked with rural communities to develop a range of innovative mitigation measures. These include the use of solar-powered electrical fences, adjustments in crop cultivation timeframes, and the introduction of alternative crops. The project has also addressed a range of interconnected socioeconomic issues such as sustainable land use, capacity building, and gender equality by promoting agroforestry and home garden development, and by extending access to new technologies and microcredit.

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, Sri Lanka has 660 PAs reported in the WDPA; of these PAs, 2 (0.3%) have management effectiveness evaluations reported in the global database on protected area management effectiveness (GD-PAME).

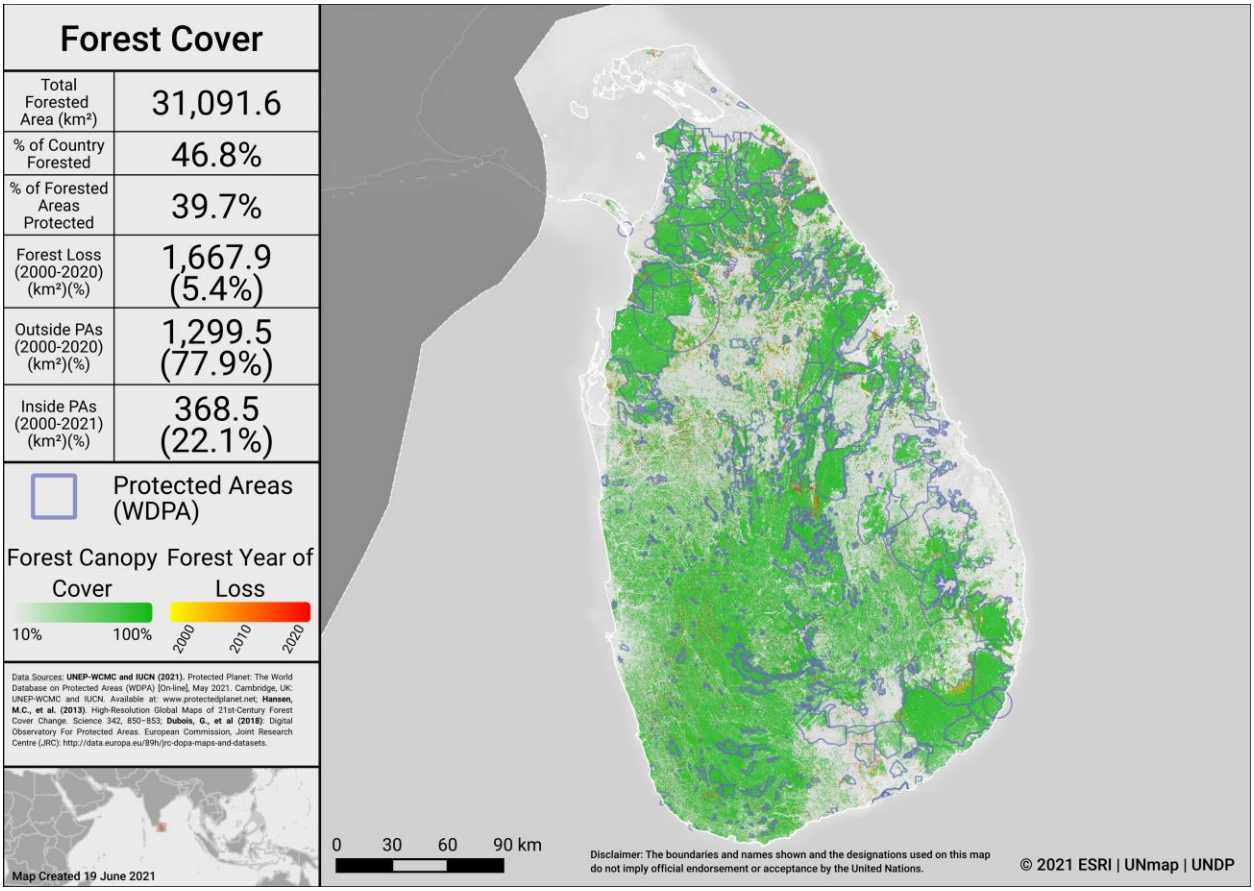
- 0.9% (634 km^2) of the terrestrial area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
  - 3.2% of the area of terrestrial PAs have completed evaluations.
- 0.0% (0.0 km^2) of the marine area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
  - 0.0% 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 not** been met for marine PAs.

As of May 2021, there are 0 OECMs in Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka cover approximately 46.8% of the country, an area of 31,091.6 km^2. Approximately 39.7% (12,334.0 km^2) of this is within the protected area estate of Sri Lanka. Over the period 2000-2020 loss of forest cover amounted to over 1,667.9 km^2, or 2.5% of the country (5.4% of forest area), of which 368.5 km^2 (22.1% of forest loss) occurred within protected areas. The map below shows how forest cover has changed in Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka

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 not** been met for marine PAs. Therefore, there is opportunity to increase protected area management effectiveness (PAME) evaluations for both terrestrial and marine 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 South, Central and West Asia on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 took place 7 - 10 December 2015 in New Delhi, India. Progress towards the quantitative targets for marine and terrestrial coverage has been assessed based on data reported in the WDPA and WD-OECM as of 2021. For more information, see the workshop report at: https://www.cbd.int/meetings/

The following actions were identified during the workshops:

Terrestrial coverage:

1) Conduct assessment on identification of GAPs and suitable sites for protected areas and demarcate and conserve.
2) Establish and strengthen national and regional systems of PAs integrated in to global network as a contribution to globally agreed goals.
3) In forest extension work, promote the use of selected Indigenous species of timber, medicinal plants, food and fiber producing plants targeting home gardens, private woodlots, etc.
4) Expand programmes for afforestation, reforestation and forest rehabilitation, paying attention to the use of Indigenous species as far as possible.
5) Expand and maintain the programme of setting up urban forests and develop educational and awareness programs in relation to these forests.
6) Strengthen and enhance current efforts to identify critically important wetlands in terms of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
7) Protect sites that harbor key evolutionary links such as fossils, sub-fossils or living organisms [**No area provided**].

Marine coverage:

1) Preserve seagrass beds and encourage use of resources via proper in situ - culture and harvest practices among local communities and entrepreneurs.
2) Strengthen and enhance current effort to map the biological resources, including corals, seagrass beds etc. In the coastal waters in Sri Lanka based on geographical information system (GIS).

3) Carry out scientific biodiversity assessment of coral reef and other important marine systems to identify a minimum network of marine reserves to conserve the totality of marine biodiversity based on principals similar to National Conservation review of forests.

4) Commence awareness programmes for different target groups to mitigate adverse effort of pollution, coral reef damage and overharvesting species from coastal and marine ecosystems.

5) Carry out an assessment of the coastal and marine sector and identify and designate the areas that need to be protected.

6) Establish a marine division in the Department of Wildlife Conservation and implement effective management of MPAs and marine species.

Ecological representation:

1) Conduct detail assessments to identify the biodiversity values in the identified IBAs and AZEs, expand the IBAs, AZEs and map these sites and develop management plans for the conserve these protected areas. And also update the world databases.

2) Identify the highest priority candidate ecoregions for further protection.

3) Update the protected area gap analysis and develop and implement a strategy to protect the critical habitats and critical species that are outside the PA network.

4) Conduct a status assessment of the PA network and identify sites that need to be upgraded or downgraded based on their current status.

5) Introduce new protected area approaches such as community based conservation areas and privately managed protected areas.

6) Apply global tools such as KBA, EBSA, Urban biodiversity Index, green listing, ecosystem red listing to evaluate the status of urban and natural ecosystems.

Areas Important for biodiversity and ecosystem services:

1) Strengthen the research activities to collect information on biodiversity value of the outside protected areas and develop policy and legislations to conserve the biodiversity outside the protected areas.

2) Identify the Traditional Knowledge on Biodiversity and use that knowledge in PA management and conservation.

3) Identify the priority conservation actions and implement with the support of IPLCs and private sector.

4) Preparation of conservation plans.

5) Do comprehensive surveys in order to map the distributions of all species.

6) Conduct assessment and protect or partially protect unprotected AZEs (5/6) .

7) Develop a research agenda to address identified information gaps on sites, taxa and valuation of ecosystem services and share this information with relevant stakeholders.

8) Establish a national biodiversity survey programme to conduct baseline surveys for subsequent monitoring of sites identified in the above action.

9) Provide seed grants for contract research on identified sites, taxa and ecosystem services, where information is not presently available.

10) Provide training for local experts on lesser-known taxa.

11) Protect unprotected IBAs.

No actions were identified for the following elements of Target 11: Connectivity; Management effectiveness; Governance and Equity; Integration into the wider landscape and seascape

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

Sri Lanka 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 not** include a quantitative target for **terrestrial** PAs or OECMs.

Target 3: By 2022, the protected area (PA) network is made representative of all critical ecosystems and species and managed effectively [Currently, 35% of land and 0.3% of marine areas of Sri Lanka are protected by law]

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

Indicators for Target 3 include: At least 10% of coastal and marine areas protected)

- As of May 2021 (based on the WDPA/WD-OECM) has the target been met: **No (but post-2020 target date)**
- Accounting for other projects, actions and commitments, if this target is met, coverage in the country will increase by **52,010 km²** by 2022.

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

NBSAP Action number	Action (original language from NBSAP)
1	Update the protected area gap analysis based on the recommendations of the provincial SEAs and develop and implement a strategy to protect the critical habitats outside the PA network with reference also to ecosystem-based climate change adaptation
2	Conduct a status assessment of the PA network and identify sites that need to be upgraded or downgraded based on their current status
4	Establish a marine division in the Department of Wildlife Conservation and implement effective management of MPAs and marine species
5	Prepare adaptive management plans for all areas declared as protected under action 2 and 3 and ensure that these plans are implemented effectively
7	Promote community-based conservation using sui-generis tools for community owned land
5	Create new protected areas or special management zones within existing protected areas for in-situ conservation of crop wild relatives

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

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

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

GEF ID	PA increase?	Area to be added (km^2)	Type of new protected area	Qualitative elements potentially benefitting (based on keyword search of PIFs)
5337	Yes	275	Terrestrial	All except Ecologically representative and Ecosystem services
9093	No	N/A	N/A	Effectively managed; Equitably managed; Integration
9372	No	N/A	N/A	All except Areas important for biodiversity and Effectively managed

Based on spatial data available for GEF project 5337, benefits will arise for several elements of Target 11:

Coverage of Terrestrial and Marine Ecoregions:

- 1 terrestrial ecoregion will have improved coverage (Sri Lanka dry-zone dry evergreen forests).
  - The increase in coverage of Terrestrial Ecoregions will be 3.31%.

Ecosystem services:

- 0.11 % increase in the PA coverage of aboveground biomass.
- 0.02 % increase in the PA coverage of important aboveground biomass areas.
- 0.26 % increase in the PA coverage of soil organic carbon (SOC).
- 0.14 % increase in the PA coverage of areas important for SOC.

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

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

GCF ID	Project theme	Result area	Target 11 element
FP124	Adaptation	Ecosystems and ecosystem services	Effectively managed; Ecosystem services; Integration; Equitably managed

UN OCEAN CONFERENCE VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS

Voluntary commitments for the UN Ocean Conference are initiatives voluntarily undertaken by governments, the UN system, non-governmental organizations, among other actors—individually or in partnership—that aim to contribute to the implementation of SDG 14 (here we focus in particular on SDG 14.5). The registry of commitments was opened in February 2017, in the lead up to the first UN Ocean Conference (5 to 9 June 2017).

Ocean Actions improving MPA or OECM coverage:

#OceanAction19899: Protection of Marine and Coastal Resources, by Department of Wildlife Conservation (Government).

- Area to be added**: 1,000 km².**
- Progress report: No progress report submitted (as of March 2021).
- Further details available at: https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19899.

OTHER ACTIONS/COMMITMENTS

Leaders' Pledge for Nature

Sri Lanka **has** signed onto the Leaders' Pledge for Nature.

Political leaders participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 88 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030. By doing so, these leaders are sending a united signal to step up global ambition and encourage others to match their collective ambition for nature, climate, and people with the scale of the crisis at hand.

Other commitments addressing improved coverage of PAs or OECMs

Other actions and commitments, if completed as proposed, will increase coverage of terrestrial areas by **245 km²**.

These commitments are based on the increased area of the *Sinharaja rainforest reserve*, increasing from ~11,500ha to 36,000ha (which is not yet reported in WDPA); details on the expansion here.

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
Deccan thorn scrub forests	2,720.7	0.8	4.1	307.9	11.3
Sri Lanka dry-zone dry evergreen forests	48,212.8	100.0	72.8	17,660.7	36.6
Sri Lanka lowland rain forests	12,500.2	100.0	18.9	1,171.3	9.4
Sri Lanka montane rain forests	3,065.7	100.0	4.6	632.8	20.6

ANNEX II

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PPAs

- ~82.25% of land is owned by the State, 17.75% is privately owned
    - Lands under state control includes (1) State lands which the government and provincial councils may alienate and regulate (2) lands in custody of State corporations and departments (3) state leaseholds where the government retains absolute title and (4) lands given as State grants. Private lands are freehold titles which the owner has the right to transfer or dispose of
- No formal definition has been formulated for privately protected areas (PPAs) in Sri Lankan environmental or protected area legislation
    - However, while most PAs must be declared on State lands and if not, are protected via land acquisition by the State, the National Environmental Act of 1980 (NEA) offers another means of protecting land while allowing that land to remain privately owned. The NEA allows for the designation of 'Environmental Protection Areas' which have high biodiversity or ecological value by Sri Lanka's Central Environmental Authority. Under this designation, such areas are subject to more regulated activity although the land remains under private ownership
- Although PPAs were not specifically identified in the county's recent NBSAP, the importance of expanding the PA network beyond State lands is mentioned (to ensure representation of all critical ecosystems and species)
    - Actions for National Target 3 (in the NBSAP) include, inter alia, "promoting other conservation models such as community-based, public-private partnerships."
- The National Environmental Act allows for the designation of 'Environmental Protection Areas' which are subject to more regulated activity although the land remains under private ownership.
    - Between 2006 and 2010, 8 EPAs were created.

See additional info in country profile (http://nbsapforum.net/knowledge-base/resource/sri-lanka-country-profile-international-outlook-privately-protected-areas).

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