



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



# Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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## GLOSSARY

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AZEs	Alliance for Zero Extinction sites
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GD-PAME	Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IBA	Important Bird and Biodiversity Area
ICCAs	Indigenous and Community Conserved Area Area (may also be referred to as territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities or “territories of life”)
IPLC	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
MEOW	Marine Ecosystems of the World
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
OECD	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures
PA	Protected Area
PAME	Protected Area Management Effectiveness
PPA	Privately Protected Area
PPOW	Pelagic Provinces of the World
ProtConn	Protected Connected land indicator
SOC	Soil Organic Carbon
TEOW	Terrestrial Ecosystems of the World
WDPA	World Database on Protected Areas
WD-OECD	World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures



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This country dossier is compiled by the UNDP and SCBD from publicly available information. It is prepared, within the overall work of the Global Partnership on Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, for the purpose of attracting the attention of the Party concerned and other national stakeholders to facilitate the verification, correcting, and updating of country data. The statistics might differ from those reported officially by the country due to differences in methodologies and datasets used to assess protected area coverage and differences in the base maps used to measure terrestrial and marine area of a country or territory. Furthermore, the suggestions from the UNDP and SCBD are based on analyses of global datasets, which may not necessarily be representative of national policy or criteria used at the national level. The analyses are also subject to the limits inherent in global indicators (precision, reliability, underlying assumptions, etc.). Therefore, they provide useful information but cannot replace analyses at a national level nor constitute a future benchmark for national policy or decision-making.

The preparation of this dossier was generously supported by: the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH*; the European Commission; the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and the Government of Japan (Japan Biodiversity Fund). The dossier does not necessarily reflect their views.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

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

#### Coverage - Terrestrial & Marine

- **Status:** as of May 2021 (in the WDPA), terrestrial coverage of all PAs and OECMs in Dominican Republic is 12,727.4 km<sup>2</sup> (26.2%) and marine coverage is 48,625.0 km<sup>2</sup> (18.0%); Dominican Republic's National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) covers 25.6% of the terrestrial environment and 9.6% of national marine areas.
- **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:** Dominican Republic contains 5 terrestrial ecoregions, 2 marine ecoregions, and 1 pelagic province (all of which have at least partial coverage by PAs and OECMs): the mean coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 47.2% (terrestrial), 75.7% (marine), and 9.1% (pelagic).
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Dominican Republic to increase protection in terrestrial ecoregions and pelagic provinces that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs.



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### Areas Important for Biodiversity

- **Status:** Dominican Republic has 34 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): the mean protected coverage of KBAs by reported PAs and OECMs is 77.2%, while 3 KBAs have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Dominican Republic to increase protection of KBAs that have lower levels of coverage by PAs and OECMs, and to focus on effective management for KBAs that already have adequate coverage; priority could be given to those with no current coverage.

### Areas Important for Ecosystem Services

- **Status:** coverage of areas important for ecosystem services: In Dominican Republic, 36.0% of aboveground biomass carbon, 35.8% of belowground biomass carbon, 31.5% of soil organic carbon, 13.3% of carbon stored in marine sediments is covered by PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** for carbon, there is opportunity for Dominican Republic 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 17.3%. The Dominican Republic has developed an extensive ecological restoration program which promotes connectivity across the PA network.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity to focus on PA and OECM management for enhancing and maintaining connectivity. Improving connectivity increases the effectiveness of PAs and OECMs and reduces the impacts of fragmentation.
- As well, a range of suggested steps for enhancing and supporting integration are included in the voluntary guidance on the integration of PAs and OECMs into the wider land- and seascapes and mainstreaming across sectors to contribute, inter alia, to the SDGs (Annex I of COP Decision 14/8).

### Governance Diversity

- **Status:** the most common governance type(s) for reported PAs in Dominican Republic is: 59.9% under Government (Federal or national ministry or agency).
- **Opportunities for action:** explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation, for Dominican Republic this could relate to shared





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governance, etc. Increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 40.1% of sites that do not have their governance type reported.

- There is also opportunity for Dominican Republic 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:** 56.2% of terrestrial PAs and 3.0% of marine PAs have completed Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessments reported. The Dominican Republic is working towards a new management effectiveness evaluation, which will show the current situation in the management of SINAP.
- **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

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

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

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

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



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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](http://www.protectedplanet.net). Parties are encouraged to provide data on their PAs and OECMs to UNEP-WCMC for incorporation into the databases (see e.g., Decisions 10/31 and 14/8). The significant efforts of Parties in updating their data in the build up to the publication of the Protected Planet Report 2020 (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2021) were greatly appreciated. UNEP-WCMC welcomes further updates, following the data standards described here ([www.wcmc.io/WDPA\\_Manual](http://www.wcmc.io/WDPA_Manual)), and these should be directed to [protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org). The statistics presented in this dossier are derived from the May 2021 WDPA and WD-OECM releases, unless explicitly stated otherwise. Readers should consult [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net) for the latest coverage statistics (updated monthly).

Some data from the WDPA and WD-OECM are not made publicly available at the request of the data-provider. This affects some statistics, maps, and figures presented in this dossier. Statistics provided by UNEP-WCMC (terrestrial and marine coverage) are based upon the full dataset, including restricted data. All other statistics, maps, and figures are based upon the subset of the data that is publicly available.

Where data is less readily available, such as for potential OECMs, ICCAs and PPAs, data has also been compiled from published reports and scientific literature to provide greater awareness of these less commonly recorded aspects. These data are provided to highlight the need for comprehensive reporting on these areas to the WDPA and/or WD-OECM. Parties are invited to work with indigenous peoples, local communities and private actors to submit data under the governance of these actors, with their consent, to the WDPA and/or WD-OECM.

Overall, PAs and OECMs are essential instruments for biodiversity conservation and to sustain essential ecosystem services that support human well-being and sustainable development, including food, medicine, and water security, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The data in this dossier, therefore, aims to celebrate the current contributions of PAs and OECMs, whilst the gaps presented hope to encourage greater progress, not just for the benefit of biodiversity and the post-2020 GBF, but also to recognize the essential role of PAs and OECMs to the Sustainable Development Goals and for addressing the climate crisis.



## SECTION I: CURRENT STATUS

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Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 refers to both protected areas (PAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). This section provides the current status for all elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 where indicators with global data are available. Statistics for all elements are presented using data on both PAs and OECMs (where this data is available and reported in global databases like the WDPA and WD-OECM). It is recognized that statistics reported in the WPDA and WD-OECM might differ from those reported officially by countries due to differences in methodologies and datasets used to assess protected area coverage and differences in the base maps used to measure terrestrial and marine area of a country or territory. Details on UNEP-WCMC's methods for calculating PA and OECM coverage area available [here](#). The global indicators adopted here for presenting the status of other elements of Target 11 may also differ from those in use nationally. Where available, results from national reporting are also included.



## COVERAGE - TERRESTRIAL & MARINE

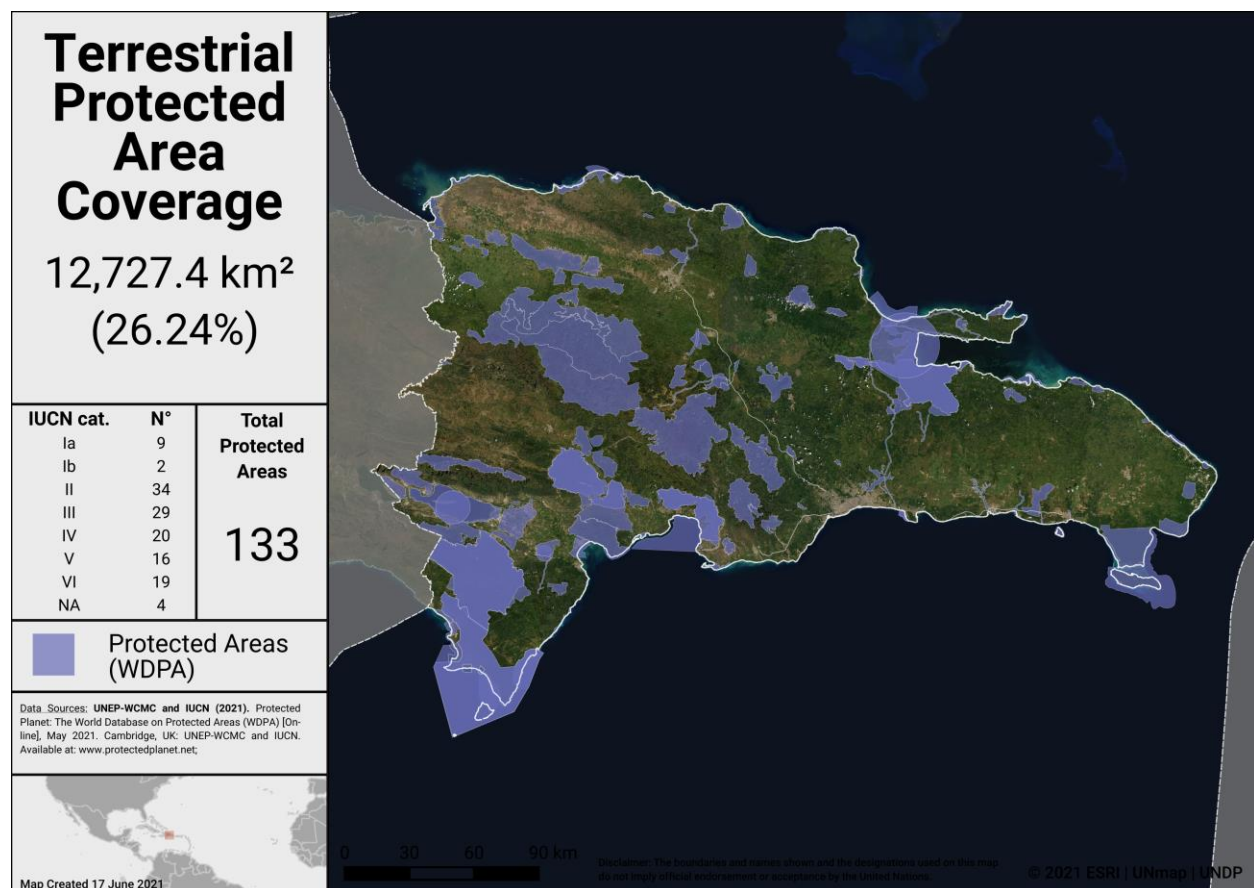
As of May 2021, Dominican Republic has **147** protected areas reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). 1 UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserves are not included in the following statistics (see details on UNWP-WCMC’s methods for calculating PA and OECM coverage [here](#)).

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

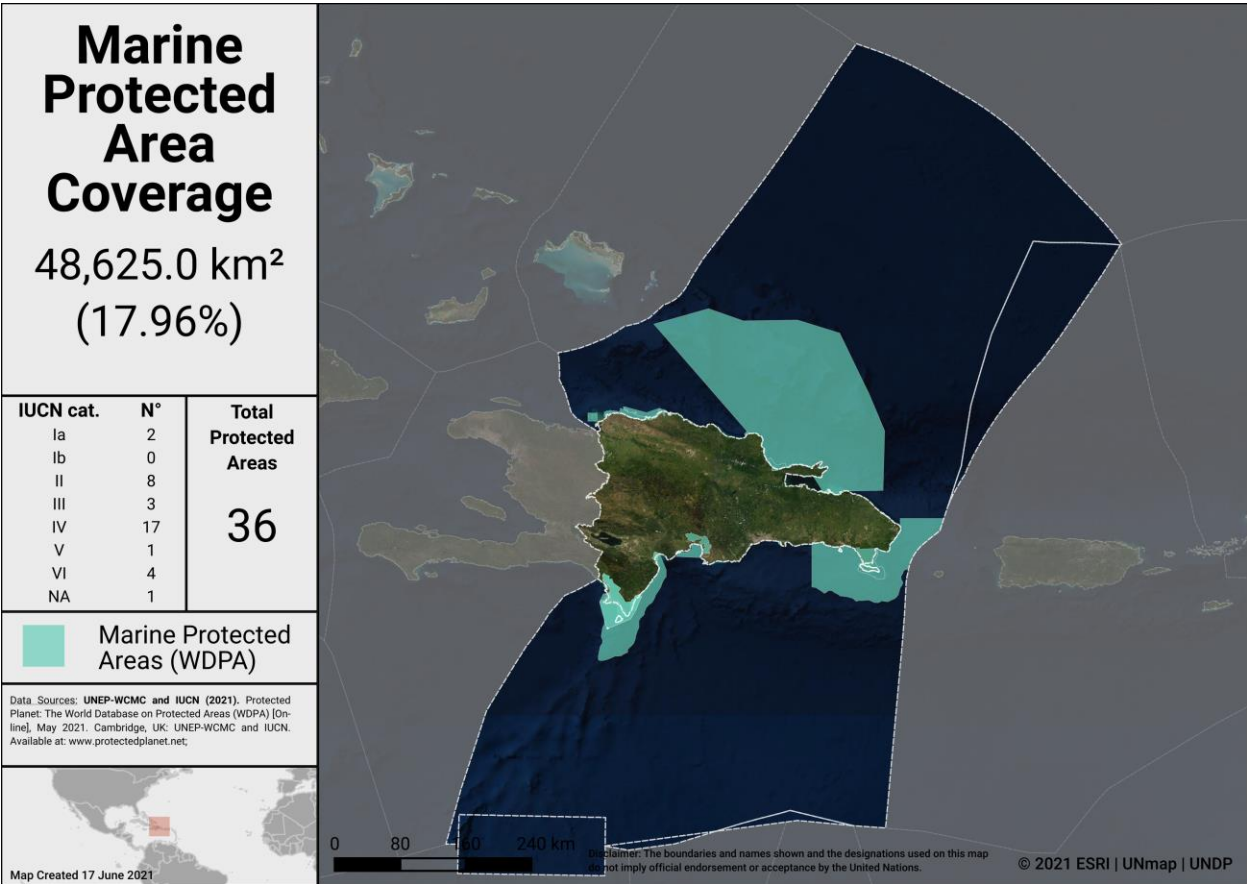
Current coverage (per the WDPA) for Dominican Republic:

- 26.2% terrestrial (133 protected areas, 12,727.4 km<sup>2</sup>)
- 18.0% marine (36 protected areas, 48,625.0 km<sup>2</sup>)

*Dominican Republic’s National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) covers 25.6% of the terrestrial environment and 9.6% of national marine areas.*



Terrestrial Protected Areas in Dominican Republic



Marine Protected Areas in Dominican Republic

**Potential OECMs**

The country has been working on an extensive ecological restoration program, the sites chosen for consideration include the incorporation of other conservation mechanisms. The private protected areas that we are promoting also apply to this. Also, some arrangements that have been made with local governments for the management of municipal areas could be considered.

The sites included as other conservation mechanisms, undoubtedly will have a positive impact on the improvement of vegetation cover, in addition, they are constituted in case of experience, with the effectiveness of management and with the capacity in governance.

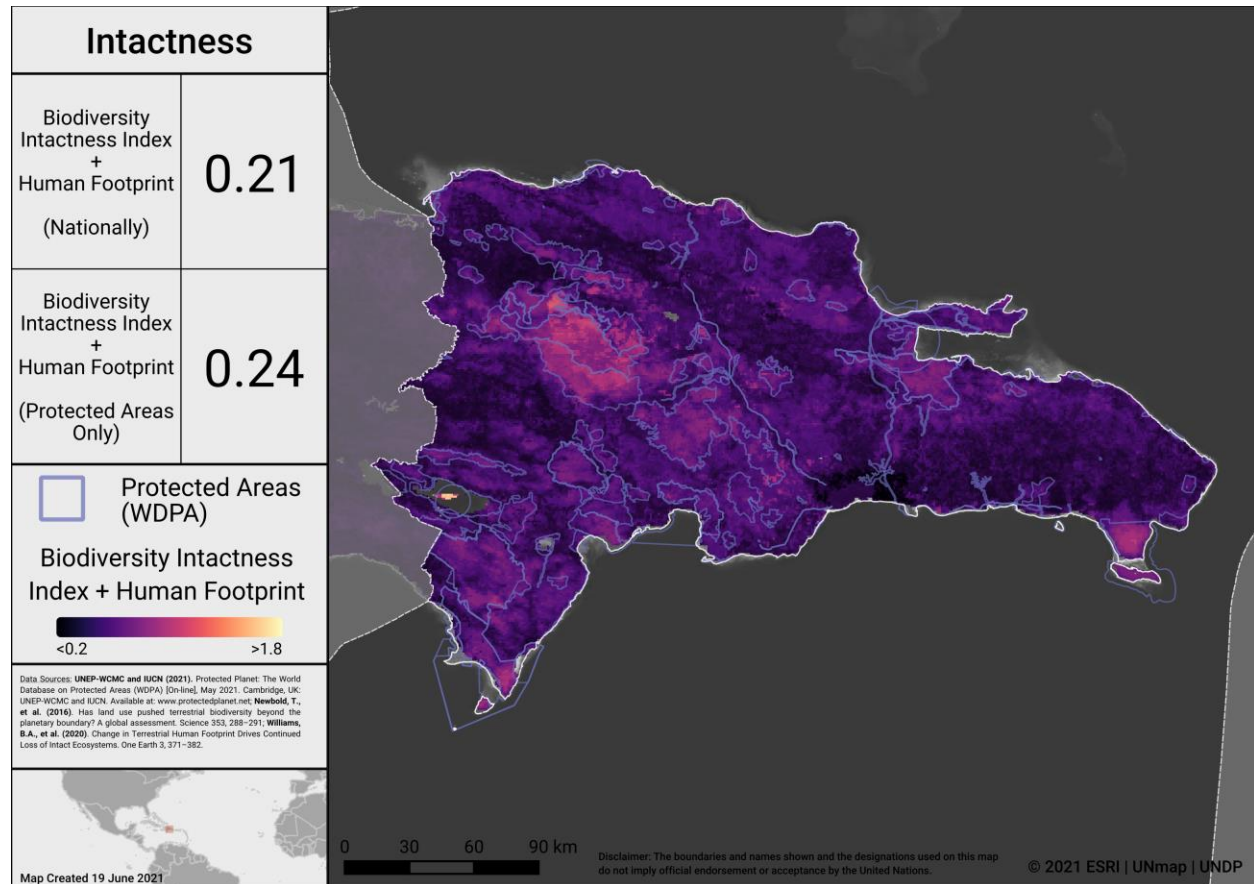
**Opportunities for action**

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 Dominican Republic considers where to add new PAs and OECMs, the map below identifies areas in Dominican Republic where intact terrestrial areas are not currently protected. Focus on



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relatively intact areas, while addressing the elements in the following sections, could be considered when planning new PAs or OECMs.



Intactness in Dominican Republic

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



## ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS – TERRESTRIAL & MARINE

Ecological representativeness is assessed based on the PAs and OECMs coverage of broad-scale biogeographic units. Globally, ecoregions have been described for terrestrial areas (Dinerstein et al, 2017), marine coastal and shelf ecosystems (to a depth of 200m; Spalding et al 2007) and surface pelagic waters (Spalding et al 2012).

Dominican Republic has 5 **terrestrial** ecoregions. Out of these:

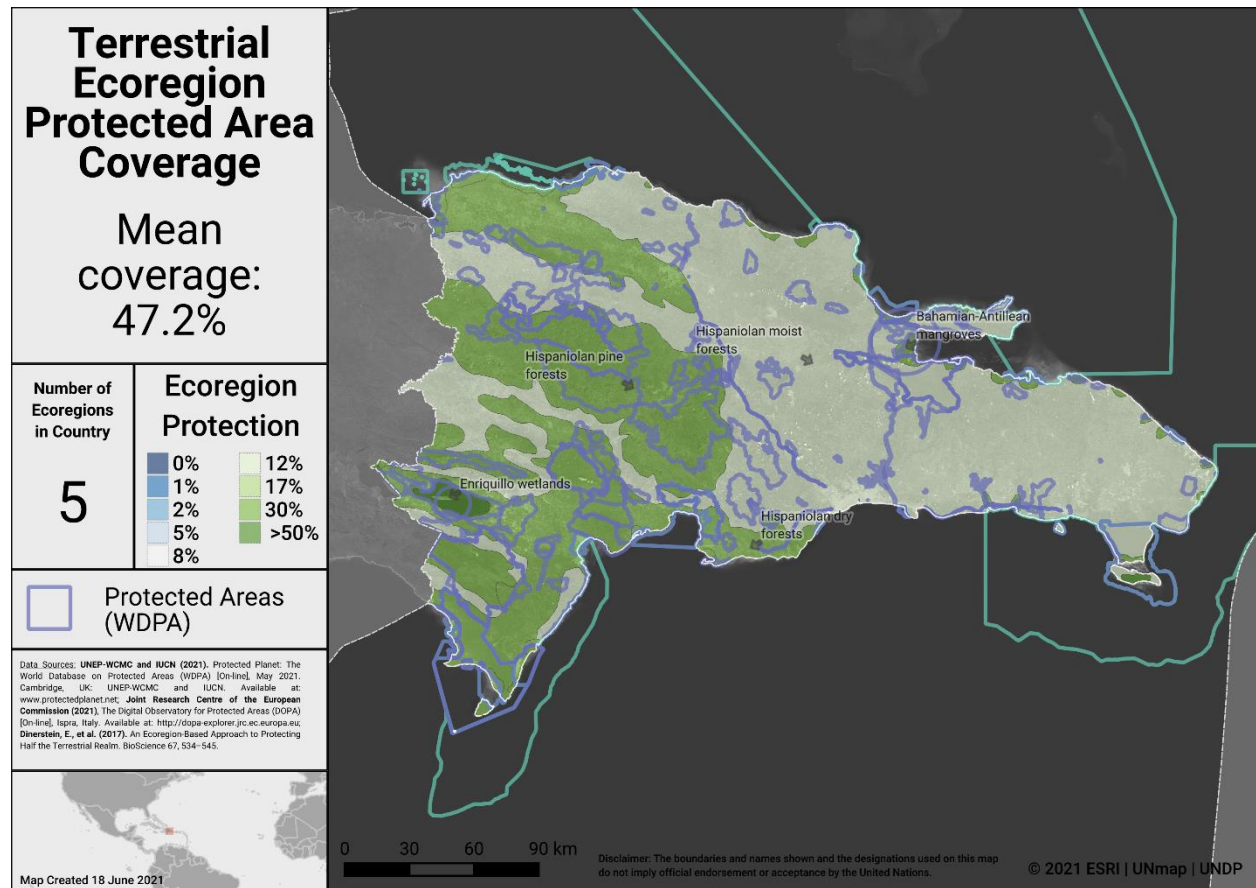
- All 5 ecoregions have at least some coverage from PAs and OECMs.
- 4 ecoregions have at least 17% protected within the country.
- The average terrestrial coverage of ecoregions is 47.2%.

Dominican Republic has 2 **marine** ecoregions and 1 **pelagic province**. Out of these:

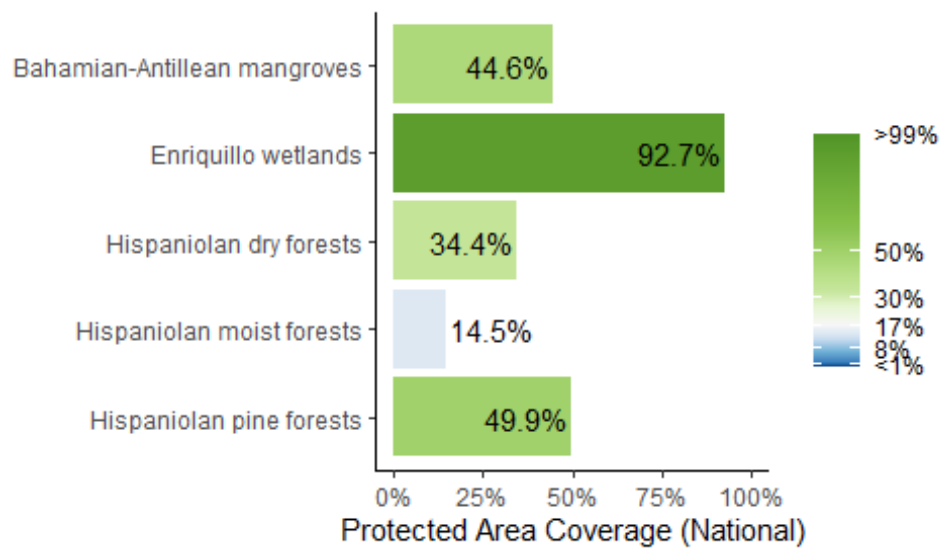
- All 2 marine ecoregions and 1 pelagic province have at least some coverage from reported PAs and OECMs.
- 2 marine ecoregions and 0 pelagic provinces have at least 10% protected within Dominican Republic's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
- The average protected area coverage of marine ecoregions is 75.7% and the average protected area coverage of Pelagic Provinces is 9.1%.

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



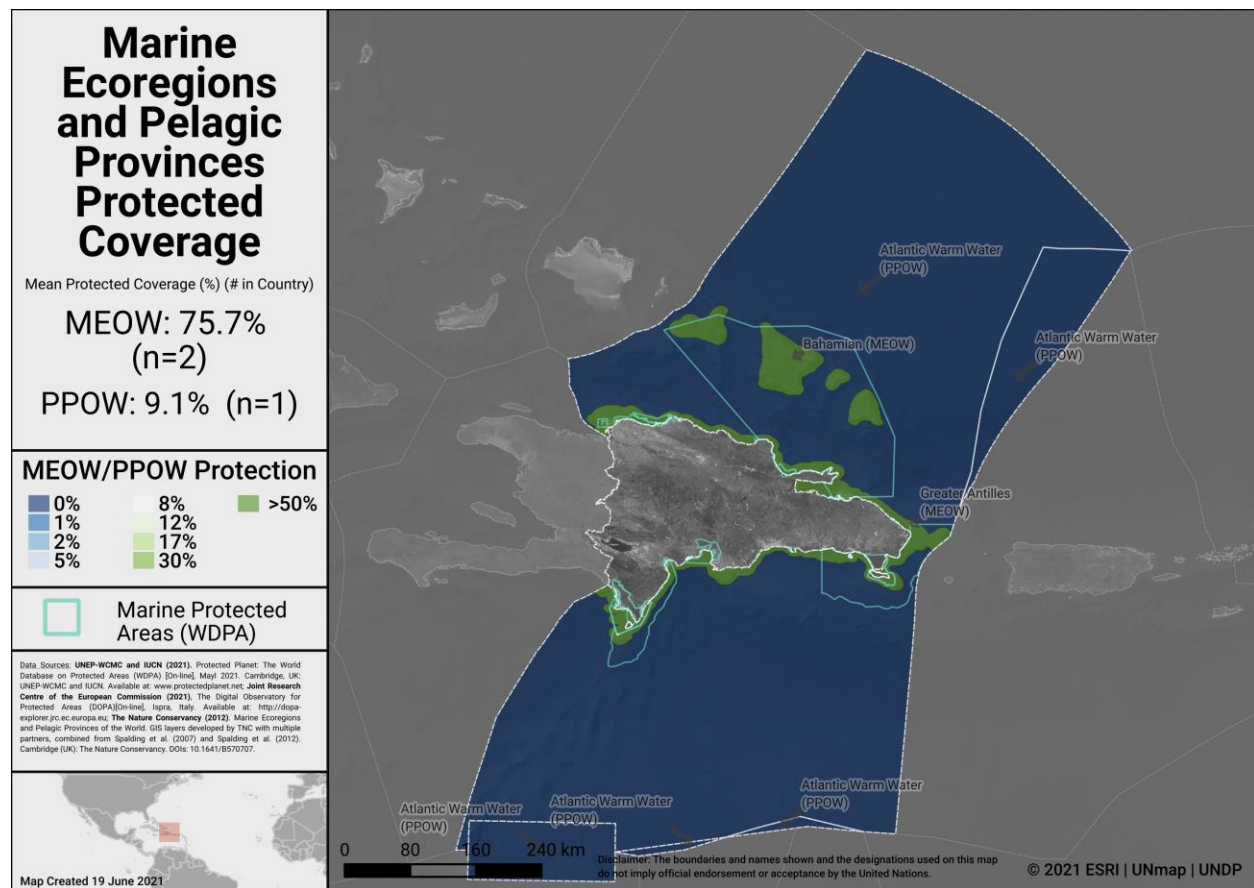


Terrestrial ecoregions in Dominican Republic

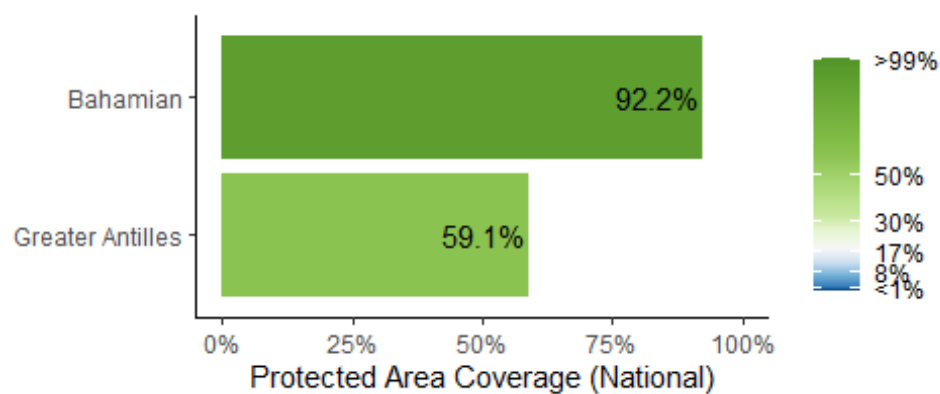


Terrestrial ecoregions of the World (TEOW) in Dominican Republic



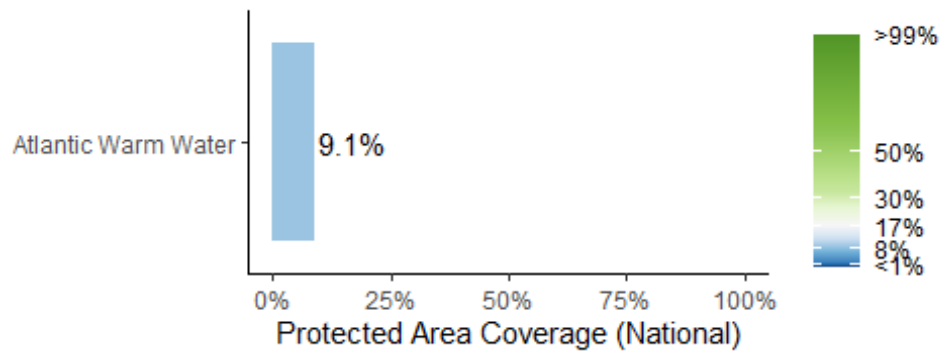


Marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces



Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW) in Dominican Republic





Pelagic Provinces of the World (PPOW) in Dominican Republic

### Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Dominican Republic to increase protection in terrestrial ecoregions and pelagic provinces that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs.

## AREAS IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY

### Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

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

Dominican Republic has **34** Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

- Mean percent coverage of all KBAs by PAs and OECMs in Dominican Republic is **77.2%**.
- **17** KBAs have full (>98%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **14** KBAs have partial coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **3** KBAs have no (<2%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.

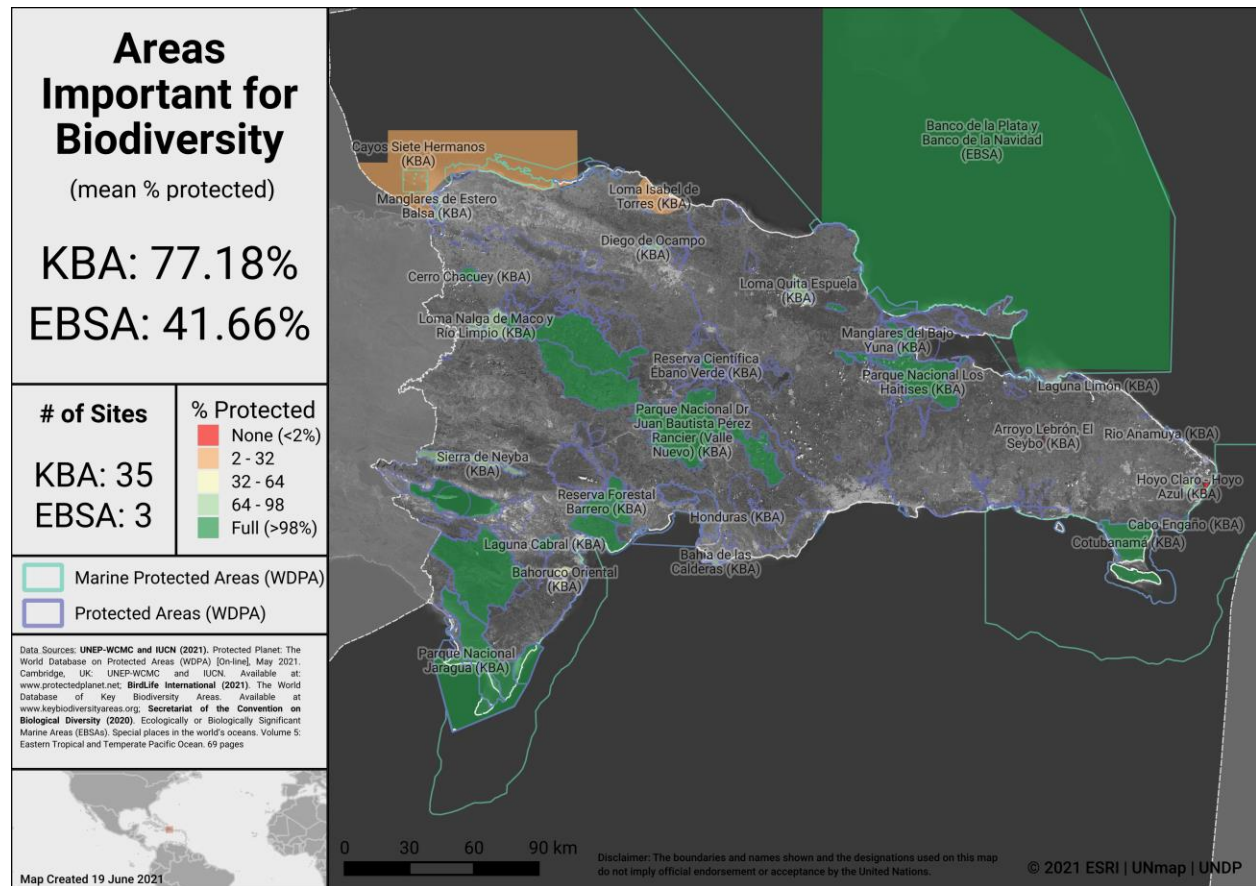
### Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)

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 3 EBSAs with some portion of their extent within Dominican Republic's EEZ, of which 1 EBSA have no coverage from PAs or OECMs (though it falls almost entirely outside of Dominican Republic's EEZ).



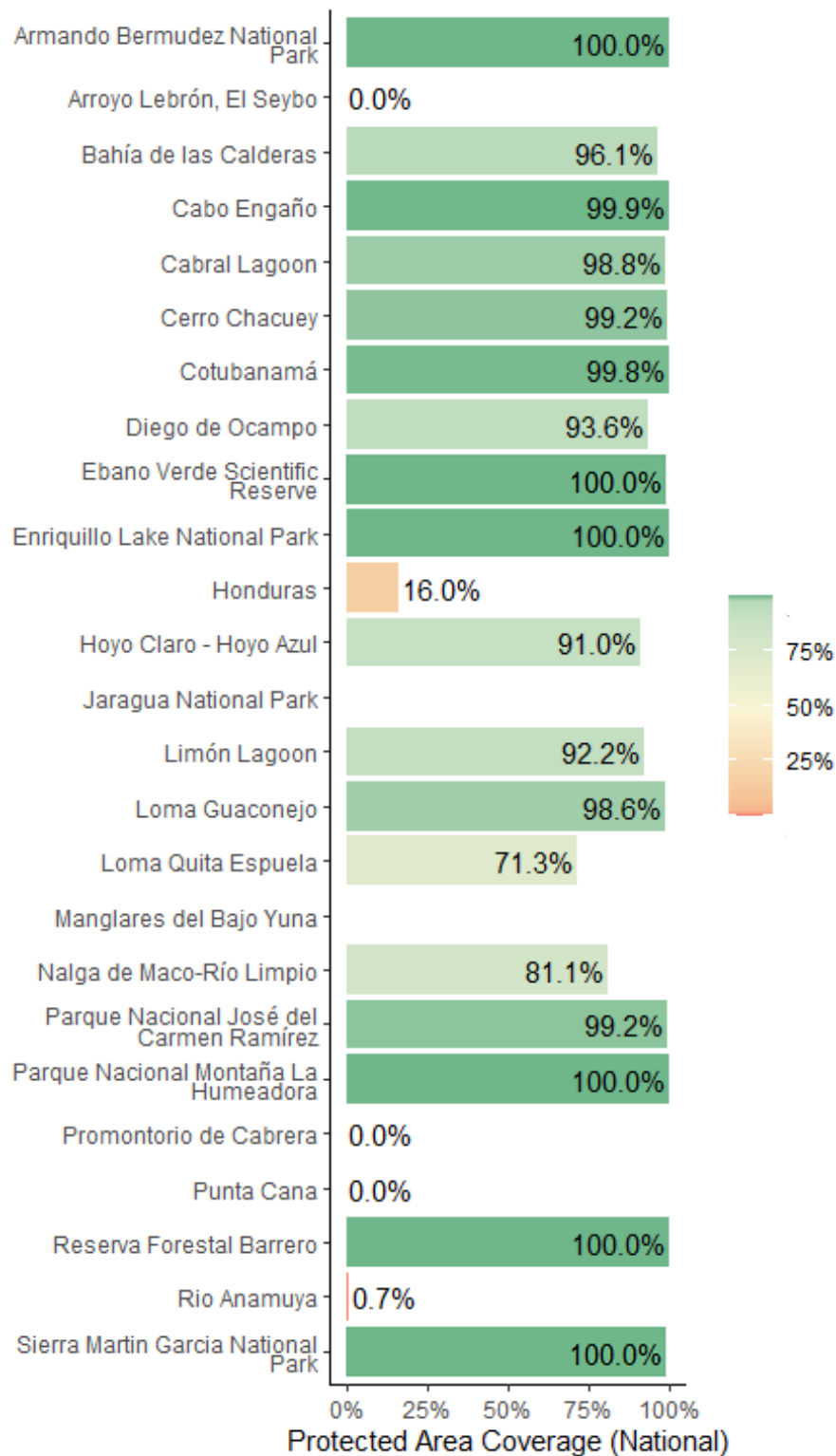




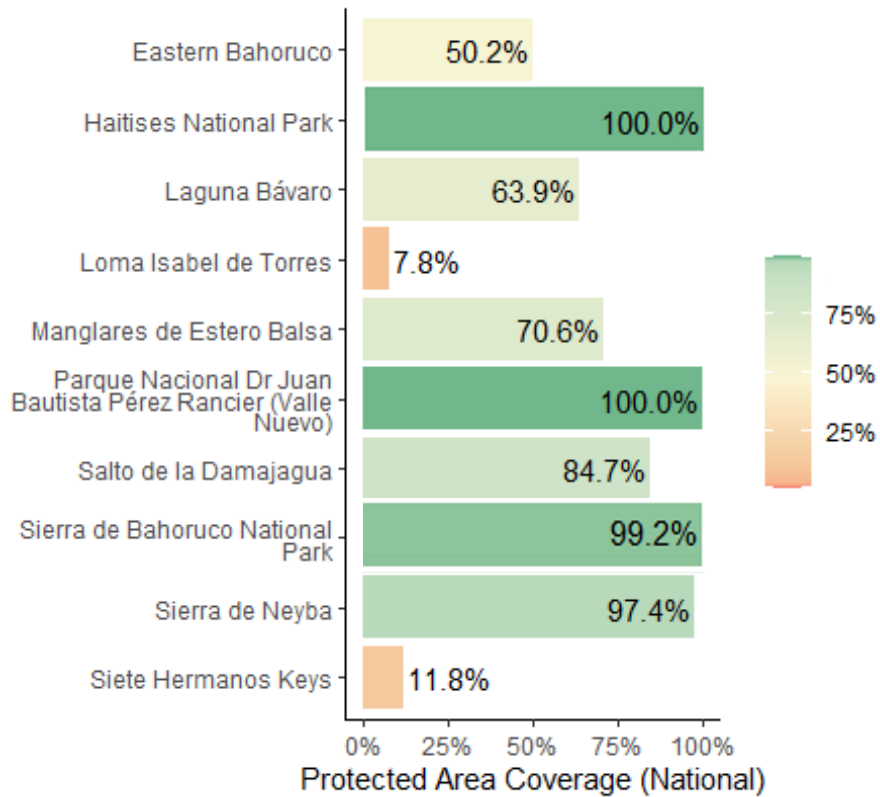
Areas Important for Biodiversity in Dominican Republic



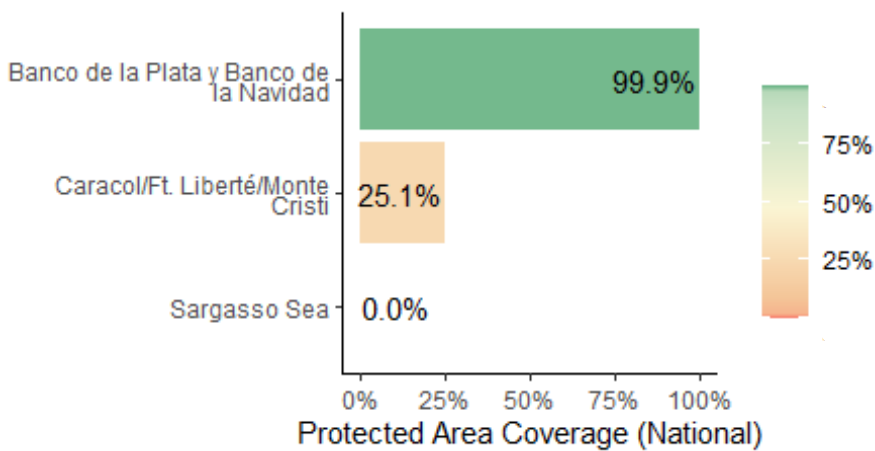
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Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Dominican Republic



Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Dominican Republic



Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in Dominican Republic

### Opportunities for action

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



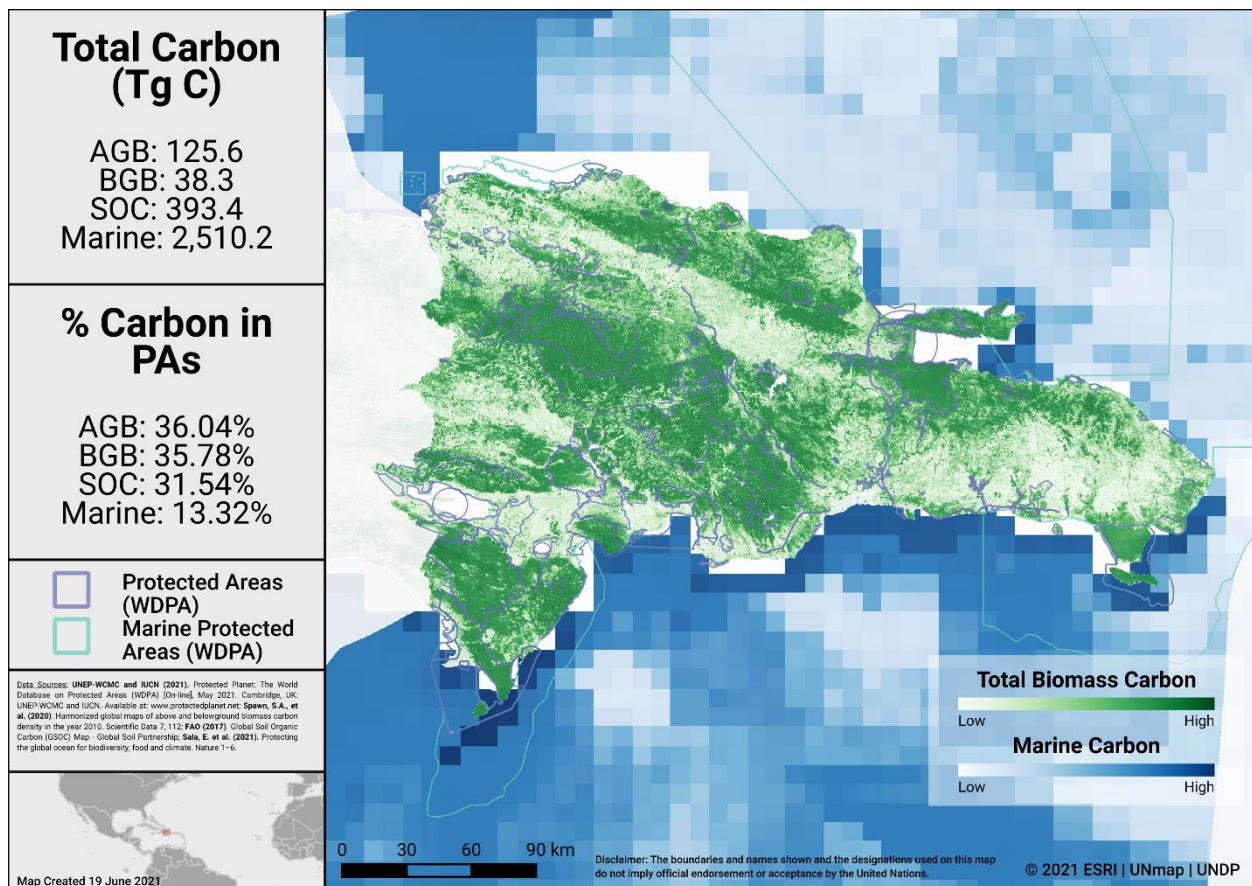
## AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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

### Carbon

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

The map below presents the total carbon stocks in Dominican Republic and the percent of carbon in protected areas. The total carbon stocks is 125.6 Tg C from aboveground biomass (AGB), with 36.0% in PAs; 38.3 Tg C from below ground biomass (BGB), with 35.8% in PAs; 393.4 Tg C from soil organic carbon (SOC), with 31.5% in PAs; and 2,510.2 Tg C from marine sediment carbon, with 13.3% in PAs.



Carbon Stocks in Dominican Republic

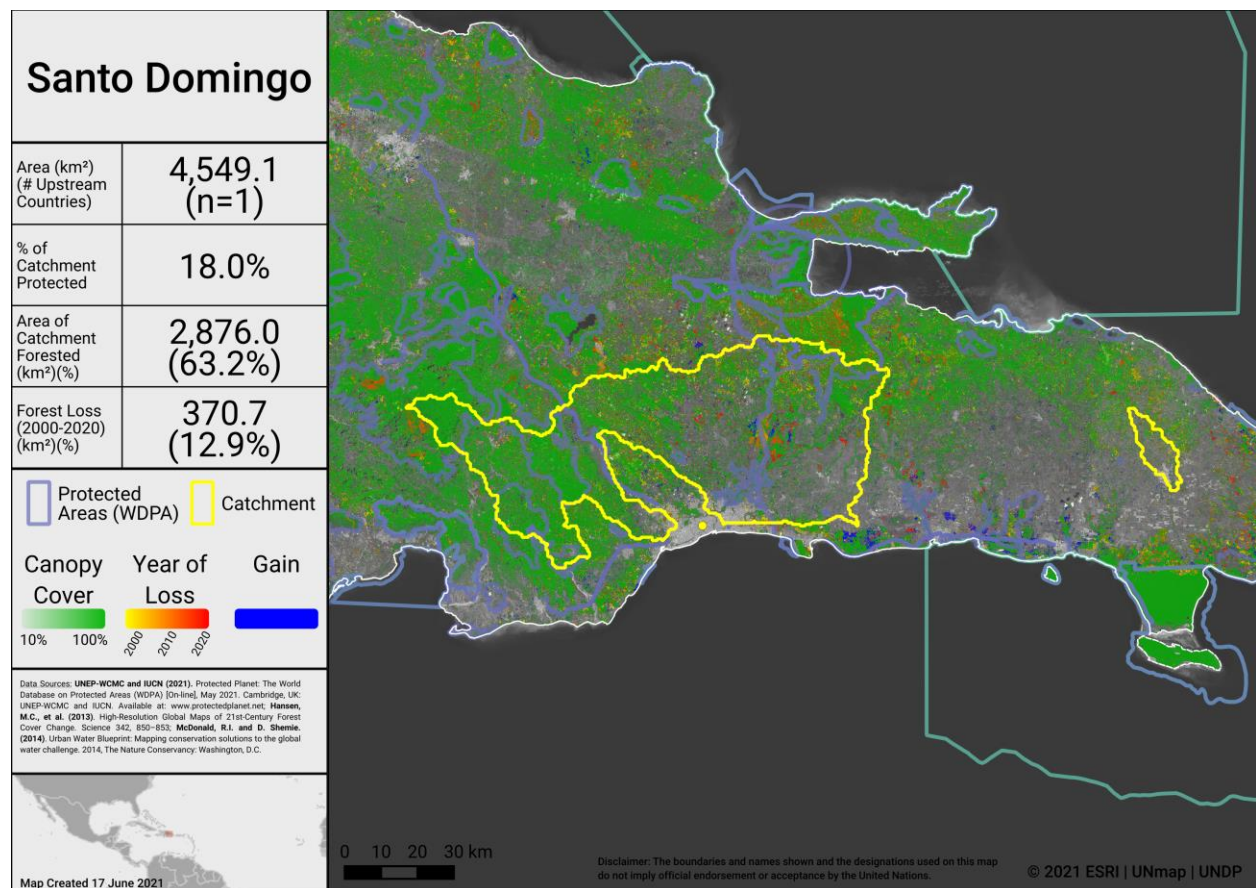


Water

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 Dominican Republic may similarly depend on protected forest areas within and around water catchments. The map below shows the percentage forest cover and the forest loss from 2000-2020 in the most heavily populated water catchment of the Dominican Republic. Intact catchments can support more consistent water supply and improved water quality.



Water supply area for the city of Santo Domingo



### Opportunities for action

For carbon, there is opportunity for Dominican Republic 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 Dominican Republic was 17.3%.

### PARC-Connectedness Index

In 2019, as assessed using the PARC-Connectedness Index (values ranging from 0-1, indicating low to high connectivity), connectivity in Dominican Republic is 0.40. This represents an increase from 0.37 in 2010.

### Corridors and integration into the wider landscape and seascape case studies

The Dominican Republic has developed an extensive ecological restoration program, with emphasis on wetland ecosystems, which generate connectivity processes within the set of SINAP protected areas. Similarly, we have been implementing private protected areas for the same purpose.

As marine protected areas have been incorporated into SINAP (National System of Protected Areas), they have been structured in such a way as to integrate them into the wider landscape and seascapes.

A number of other actions around connectivity, integration into the wider landscape and seascape, including through the use OECMs have been proposed (see [below](#)).

### 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 Dominican Republic reported in the WDPA have the following governance types:

- 59.9% 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
- 40.1% **do not** report a governance type

### OECMs

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

### Privately Protected Areas (PPAs)

There is currently no data available on PPAs for Dominican Republic (see Gloss et al., 2019, and Stolton et al., 2014 for details).

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

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

### Other Indigenous lands

There is currently no data available on lands managed and/or controlled by Indigenous Peoples in Dominican Republic (see Garnett et al 2018 for details)

### Opportunities for action

Explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation, for Dominican Republic this could relate to shared governance, etc. Increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 40.1% of sites that do not have their governance type reported.

There is also opportunity for Dominican Republic to complete governance and equity assessments, to establish baselines and identify relevant actions for improvement. Examples of existing tools and methodologies include: Governance Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas (Franks & Brooker, 2018), Social Assessment of Protected Areas (Franks et al 2018), and Site-level assessment of governance and equity (IIED, 2020). As well, a range of suggested actions are included in the voluntary guidance on effective governance models for management of protected areas, including equity (Annex II of COP Decision 14/8).

## PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

This section provides information on the coverage of PAs and OECMs with completed protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessments as reported in the global database ([GD-PAME](#)). The proportion of terrestrial and marine PAs with completed PAME assessments is also calculated and compared with the 60% target agreed to in COP-10 Decision X/31. Information is also included regarding changes in forest cover nationally within PAs and OECMs.

### Protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessments

As of May 2021, Dominican Republic has 147 PAs reported in the WDPA; of these PAs, 35 (23.8%) have management effectiveness evaluations reported in the global database on protected area management effectiveness (GD-PAME).

- 14.8% (7,154 km<sup>2</sup>) of the terrestrial area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
  - 56.2% of the area of terrestrial PAs have completed evaluations.
- 0.5% (1,471 km<sup>2</sup>) of the marine area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
  - 3.0% 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.

*The figures reported in the GD-PAME does not reflect the current situation regarding management effectiveness in Dominican Republic. The country is working towards a new management effectiveness evaluation, which will show the current situation in the management of SINAP.*

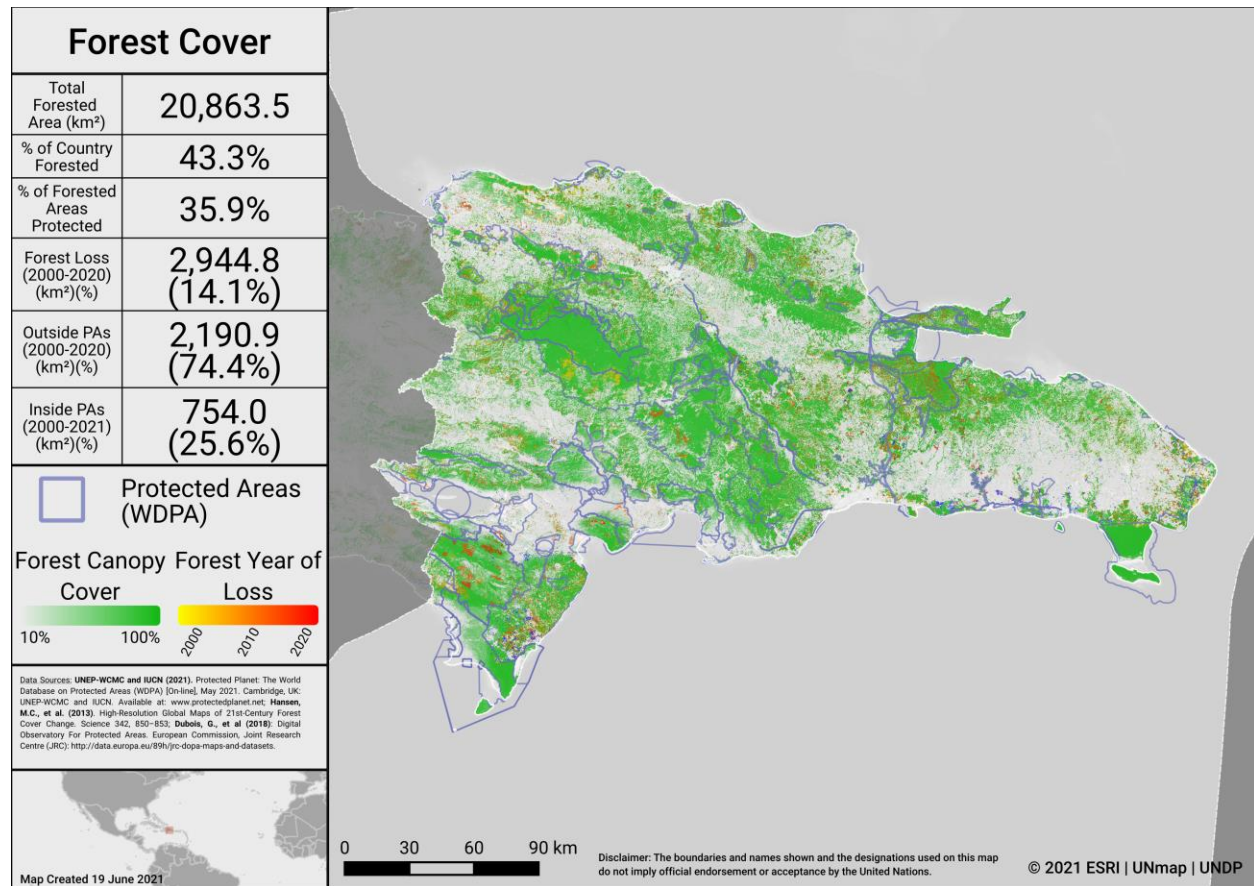
As of May 2021, there are 0 OECMs in Dominican Republic reported in the WD-OECM and no information available on the management effectiveness of potential OECMs.

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

Forested areas in Dominican Republic cover approximately 43.3% of the country, an area of 20,863.5 km<sup>2</sup>. Approximately 35.9% (7,494.0 km<sup>2</sup>) of this is within the protected area estate of Dominican Republic. Over the period 2000-2020 loss of forest cover amounted to over 2,944.8 km<sup>2</sup>, or 6.1% of the country (14.1% of forest area), of which 754.0 km<sup>2</sup> (25.6% of forest loss) occurred within protected areas. The map below shows how forest cover has changed in Dominican Republic 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 Dominican Republic

### 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

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### PRIORITY ACTIONS FROM 2015-2016 REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

National priority actions for Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 were provided by Parties following a series of regional workshops in 2015 and 2016. The Capacity-building workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 took place 28 September - 1 October 2015 in Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil. Progress towards the quantitative targets for marine and terrestrial coverage has been assessed based on data reported in the WDPA and WD-OECM as of 2021. For more information, see the workshop report at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/>

The following actions were identified during the workshops:

**Terrestrial and marine coverage:** They will evaluate min between 2 and 5 areas (terrestrial and marine) to incorporate them in the national protected area system.

**Ecological representation:** It is assumed that the inclusion 32 new PAs under the 6 Management Categories (in 2009) as a result of the Gap Analysis has met representation targets for the various national ecological zones. However, it will be necessary to implement a comprehensive study that reflects reality.

#### **Areas Important for biodiversity and ecosystem services:**

- 1) Evaluation will be made with local NGO to ID new IBAs
- 2) Try to incorporate IBAs not part of the protected areas system
- 3) Conduct a thorough evaluation of the environmental services provided by protected areas.

#### **Connectivity:**

- 1) Strengthen and monitor the initiative in the Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC) and encourage the participation of other countries in the Caribbean Biological Corridor
- 2) Strengthen the implementation of the Regulation of private protected areas and incorporate 5-7 sites are incorporated to generate connectivity with state SINAP protected areas
- 3) Monitor and protect existing corridors
- 4) Incorporate 10 new sites under the National Programme restoration of degraded ecosystems



- 5) Regulate, through a process of environmental management, projects that may affect the ecosystem connectivity between existing protected areas.

**Management effectiveness:**

- 1) More than half of PAs should have a protection and surveillance center and availability of logistics for their staff
- 2) Increase the # of management plans and consistent application
- 3) Strengthen and expand preventive protection and surveillance programs
- 4) Continue to implement the methodology established to measure management effectiveness
- 5) Strengthen endowment
- 6) Expand and strengthen programs of public use (Programas de uso publico)
- 7) 250 new Rangers will be appointed and new administrators.

**Governance and Equity:**

- 1) Monitoring the implementation of Integrated Management Regulations to incorporate at least ten (10) new protected areas to the mechanism
- 2) Ensure and monitor the participatory process of stakeholders, when preparing management plans and their subsequent implementation
- 3) Evaluating and monitoring through an administrative unit, agreements of shared management implementation.

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

- 1) Incorporate at least ten (10) new sites as part of the National Program for restoration of degraded ecosystems, with emphasis on those that connect with marine protected areas or not
- 2) Improve management effectiveness in at least ten (10) connecting protected areas with seascapes.

**OECMs:**

- 1) National program for the restoration of degraded ecosystems
- 2) The *Corredor Biológico en El Caribe* initiative (Haiti, Cuba and the Dominican Republic)
- 3) Private protected areas.



## NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

Dominican Republic 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 Goal 11. By 2016, the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) will have been strengthened through the implementation of the SINAP Master Plan 2010-2030*

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

<b>NBSAP Action number</b>	<b>Action (original language from NBSAP)</b>	<b>Action (English translation)</b>
27	Promover la Aplicación de las sanciones penales para los infractores del medio ambiente y en especial a las áreas protegidas.	Promote the application of criminal sanctions for violators of the environment and especially to protected areas.
47	Fortalecer la protección de los arrecifes de coral dentro de las áreas protegidas.	Strengthen the protection of coral reefs within protected areas
48	Desarrollar un plan de acción para la protección y uso sostenible de los arrecifes de corales Nacionales.	Develop an action plan for the protection and sustainable use of national coral reefs.
49	Realizar la evaluación de la cobertura vegetal de todas las áreas protegidas del SINAP.	The evaluation of vegetation cover from all SINAP protected areas.
51	Cubrir los vacíos biológicos identificados a nivel nacional para mejorar la representatividad biológica en el Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas.	Identified biological cover gaps at national level to improve the biological representation in the National System of Protected Areas.
52	Contribuir a la implementación del Plan Maestro del SINAP 2010 – 2030.	Contribute to the implementation of the 2010-2030 Master Plan of the SINAP.
53	Mejorar la Inserción y Valoración de las Áreas Protegidas en el Contexto de Desarrollo del País.	Contribute to the implementation of the 2010-2030 Master Plan of the SINAP.
54	Mejorar la Efectividad de Manejo de las Áreas Protegidas.	Improve Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas.
55	Establecer mecanismos financieros adecuados para el SINAP.	Establish adequate financial mechanisms for SINAP.

<b>NBSAP Action number</b>	<b>Action (original language from NBSAP)</b>	<b>Action (English translation)</b>
56	Apoyar la implementación del Plan de Sostenibilidad Financiera del SINAP.	To support the implementation of the Financial Sustainability Plan of the SINAP
73	Promover el establecimiento de áreas protegidas para especies silvestres de importancia como recurso genético.	Promote the establishment of protected areas for wild species of importance as a genetic resource.
78	Fortalecer los programas de gestión compartida de áreas protegidas con beneficios directos a grupos comunitarios locales con especial participación de la mujer.	Strengthen programs of co-management of protected areas with direct benefits to local community groups with special participation of women.
79	Apoyar el desarrollo de las áreas protegidas municipales y privadas.	Support the development of municipal and private protected areas.

*The Dominican Republic is preparing its next national strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, based on the guidelines that will emanate from the Convention on Biological Diversity for the 2020-2030 period.*



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

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

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

GEF ID	PA increase?	Area to be added (km <sup>2</sup> )	Qualitative elements potentially benefiting (based on keyword search of PIFs)
5088	No	N/A	Effectively managed; Equitably managed; Integration
9424	No	N/A	All Qualitative Elements

### Green Climate Fund (GCF) PA-related biodiversity projects

An effort that the Dominican Republic is making is to improve the effectiveness of SINAP management to ensure the conservation of key biodiversity sites and thereby promote the provision of vital environmental services, therefore, our primary interest is to develop projects that tend to achieve this goal.





## 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:

*#OceanAction21096*: Mejorar la gestión efectiva de las reas costeras y marinas dentro del Sistema Nacional de reas Protegidas (SINAP) en temas de regulación, planificación, control y vigilancia, investigación y, by Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Government).

- Area to be added: **No area given.**
- Progress report: No progress report submitted (as of March 2021).
- Further details available at:  
<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21096>.



## OTHER ACTIONS/COMMITMENTS

### Commitments for PAs and OECMs from Other National Policies

Policy document	Ecosystem	Policy text
Nationally Determined Contribution	Forest ecosystems	Ecosystem-based adaptation & resilience of ecosystems
National Development Strategy Law 2030	Forest ecosystems	Promote decarbonization of the national economy through the use of renewable sources of energy, the development of the biofuels market, the energy saving and efficiency and efficient and clean transport
National Development Strategy Law 2030	Wetland ecosystems	Conserve and sustainably manage water resources surface and underground, in order to mitigate the effects of climate change
Strategic Program for Fire Management	Forest ecosystems	Retake and position the political agenda for the management of forest ecosystems in Central America
Strategic Program for Fire Management	Forest ecosystems	Restore degraded forests with a social and economic sense to contribute to reducing the fragmentation of ecosystems
Strategic Program for Fire Management	Forest ecosystems	Strengthen the Central American System of Protected Areas (Sicap) and the conservation of biodiversity
Strategic Program for Fire Management	Forest ecosystems	Promote the management of Central American forest ecosystems towards greater sustainability, competitiveness and projection as a contribution to the reduction of vulnerability, mitigation and adaptation to climate change
Strategic Plan for Climate Change 2011-2030	Forest ecosystems	Encourage practices and technologies conducive to conservation of biodiversity: gene banks, native plants, local participation, in situ conservation and ex situ
National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan	Forest ecosystems	By 2016 promote establishment of protected areas to protect the in-situ genetic resources of the country
National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan	Coastal ecosystems	By 2016 evaluate the health of the main coral reefs at the national coasts
National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan	Grasslands & Agricultural systems	By 2016 the EIAS will have incorporated the criteria of sustainability for agriculture projects

Other commitments addressing improved coverage of PAs or OECMs

**Caribbean Challenge Initiative:** *Protecting and sustainably managing 20% of their nearshore environments by 2020* (per [TNC](#) analysis, already surpassed: **74.5%** of nearshore area covered by PAs).



## ANNEX I

### FULL LIST OF TERRESTRIAL ECOREGIONS

Ecoregion Name	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	% of Global Ecoregion in Country	% of Country in Ecoregion	Area Protected (km <sup>2</sup> )	% Protected in Country
Bahamian-Antillean mangroves	1,176.4	5.4	2.4	524.9	44.6
Enriquillo wetlands	426.7	67.9	0.9	395.6	92.7
Hispaniolan dry forests	9,580.4	62.0	19.9	3,291.9	34.4
Hispaniolan moist forests	28,730.1	62.7	59.6	4,164.9	14.5
Hispaniolan pine forests	8,344.0	72.2	17.3	4,159.8	49.9





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