Convention on Biological Diversity

UNDP

Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: SLOVAKIA

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GLOSSARY

AZEs	Alliance for Zero Extinction sites
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
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
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
ProtConn	Protected Connected land indicator
SOC	Soil Organic Carbon
TEOW	Terrestrial Ecosystems of the World
WDPA	World Database on Protected Areas
WD-OECM	World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures

Disclaimer

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

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

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. 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 with any updates to the information in these databases.

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

Coverage

- **Status:** as of May 2021, terrestrial coverage in Slovakia is 18,395.9 km^2 (37.6%); further updates will be provided in 2022.
- **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 if planning new PAs or OECMs.

Ecological Representativeness

- **Status:** Slovakia contains 2 terrestrial ecoregions: the mean coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 42.2%; all terrestrial ecoregions have at least partial coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Slovakia to increase protection in terrestrial ecoregions that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs, and focus on effective management for those that have higher coverage.

Areas Important for Biodiversity

- **Status:** Slovakia has 40 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): the mean coverage of KBAs by reported PAs and OECMs is 85.8%, while 1 KBA has no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.

- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Slovakia to increase protection of KBAs that have lower levels of coverage by PAs and OECMs, and to focus on effective management for those that already have adequate coverage; priority could be given to the 1 KBA with no current.

Areas Important for Ecosystem Services

- **Status:** coverage of areas important for ecosystem services: In Slovakia, 58.3% of aboveground biomass carbon, 56.7% of belowground biomass carbon and 50.5% of soil organic carbon is covered by PAs and OECMs.

- **Opportunities for action:** for carbon, there is opportunity for Slovakia to focus on effective management for PA and OECMs in terrestrial areas with high carbon stocks. Protecting areas with high carbon stocks secures the benefits of carbon sequestration in the area.

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

Connectivity and Integration

- **Status:** coverage of protected-connected lands is 28.1%. Several projects aimed to support the concept of ecological connectivity in Slovakia include: TRANSGREEN, ConnectGREEN, DANUBEparksCONNECTED, DaRe to Connect, and SaveGREEN.

- **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 Slovakia is: 98.9% under Government (Federal or national ministry or agency).

- **Opportunities for action:** explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation, for Slovakia this could relate to shared governance, etc.

- There is also opportunity for Slovakia 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:** 59.2% of terrestrial PAs have completed Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessments reported.
- **Opportunities for action:** the 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has not** been met for terrestrial PAs, therefore, there is opportunity to increase protected area management effectiveness (PAME) evaluations 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 Slovakia. Section I of the dossier presents data on the current status of Slovakia'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 Slovakia, in relation to each Target 11 element. The analyses present options for improving Slovakia's area-based conservation network to achieve enhanced protection and benefits for livelihoods and climate change. Section II presents details on Slovakia'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. Where available, results from national reporting are also included.

COVERAGE

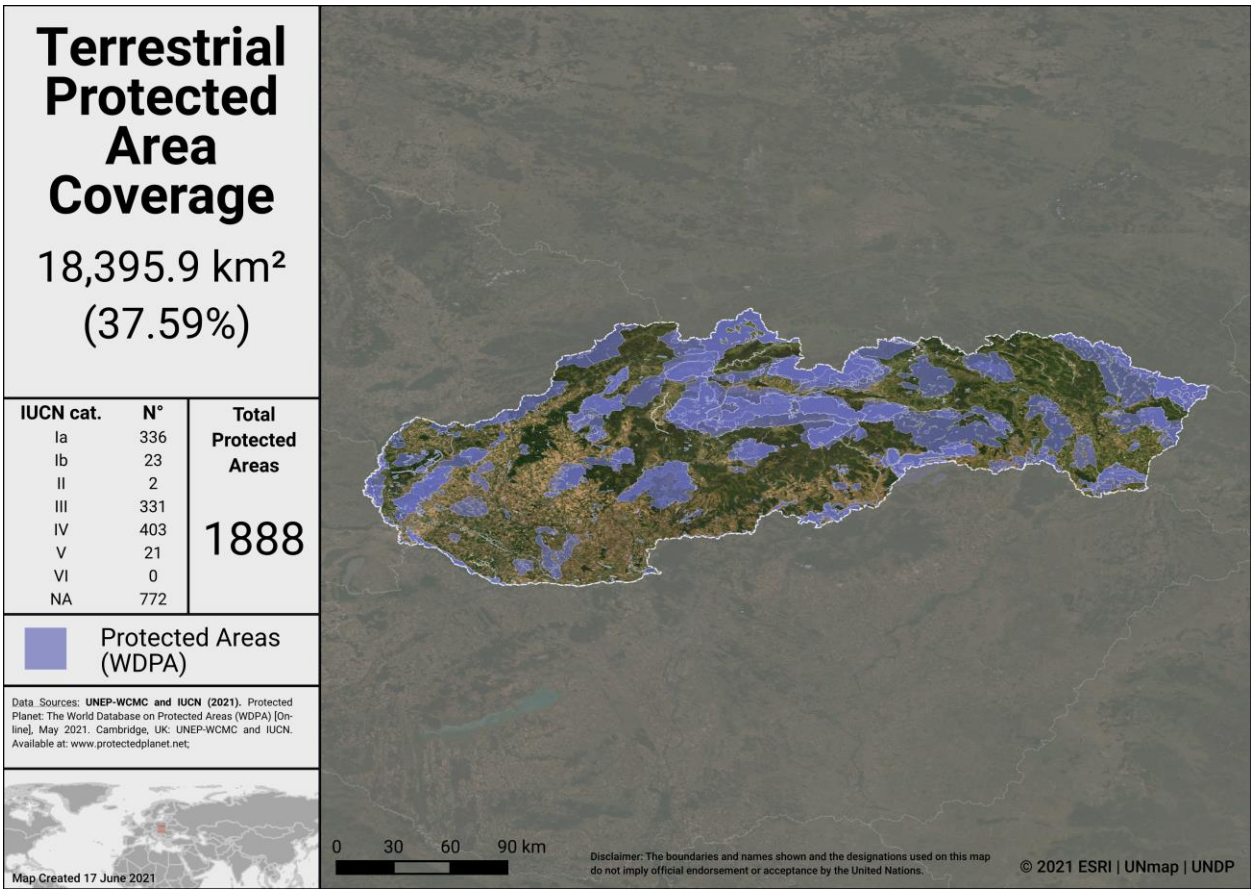
As of May 2021, Slovakia has **1,892** protected areas reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). 4 UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserves are not included in the following statistics (see details on UNWP-WCMC's methods for calculating PA and OECM coverage **here**).

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

Current coverage for Slovakia:

- 37.6% terrestrial (1,888 protected areas, 18,395.9 km^2)

An update will be provided in 2022 after consolidation of data on newly established, extended and deleted PAs from the National List of PAs. The designation of new protected areas, their extension and/or removal (mostly with their inclusion in larger PAs or in zones of national parks) is currently a very dynamic process mainly due to implementation of requirements of the EU directives and building of the Natura 2000 network in Slovakia.



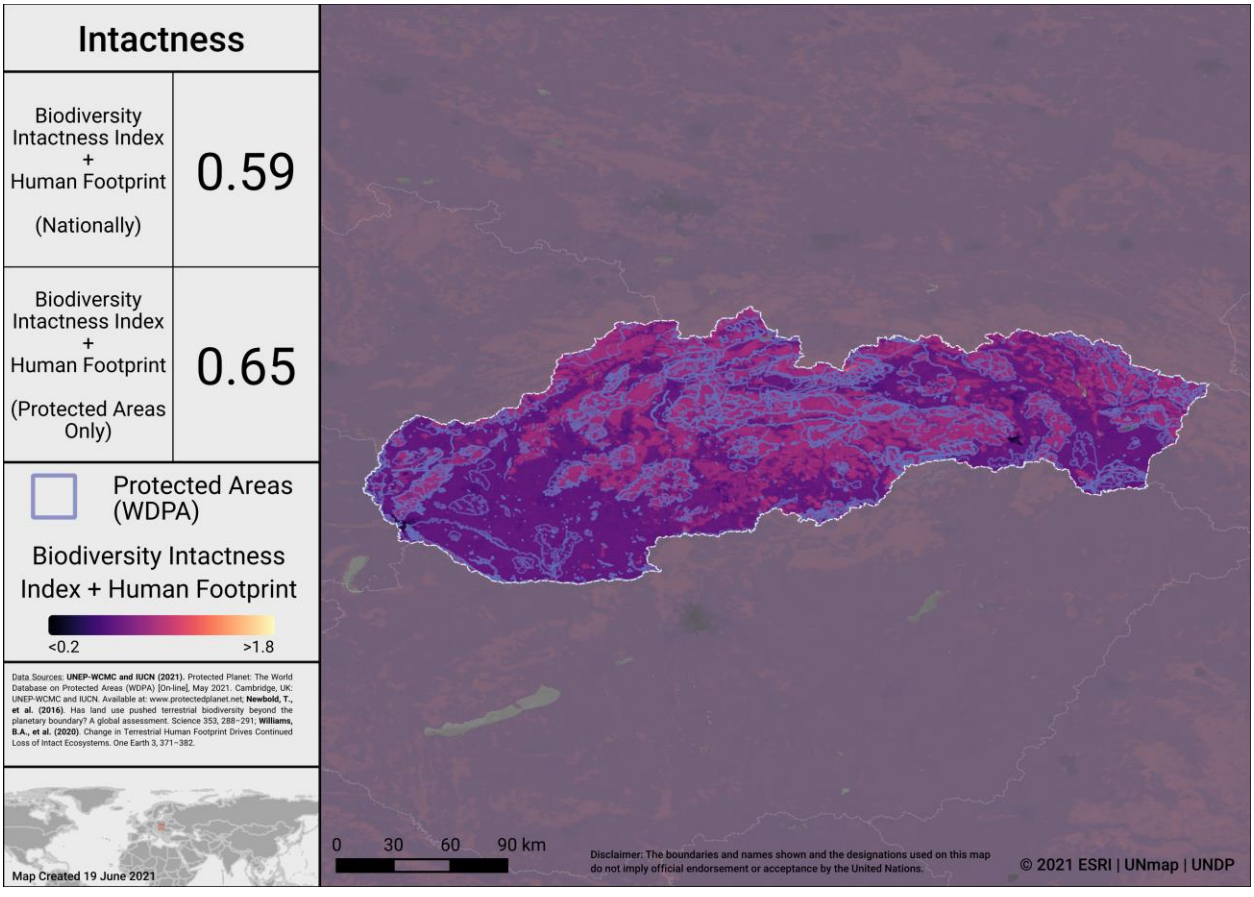
Terrestrial Protected Areas in Slovakia

Potential OECMs

Potential OECMs are under consideration; however, work on the identification of potential OECMs is only in the beginning.

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 Slovakia considers where to add new PAs and OECMs, the map below identifies areas in Slovakia where intact areas are not currently protected. Focus on relatively intact areas, while addressing the elements in the following sections, could be considered when planning new PAs or OECMs.



Intactness in Slovakia

To explore more on intactness visit the UN Biodiversity Lab: map.unbiodiversitylab.org.

ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS

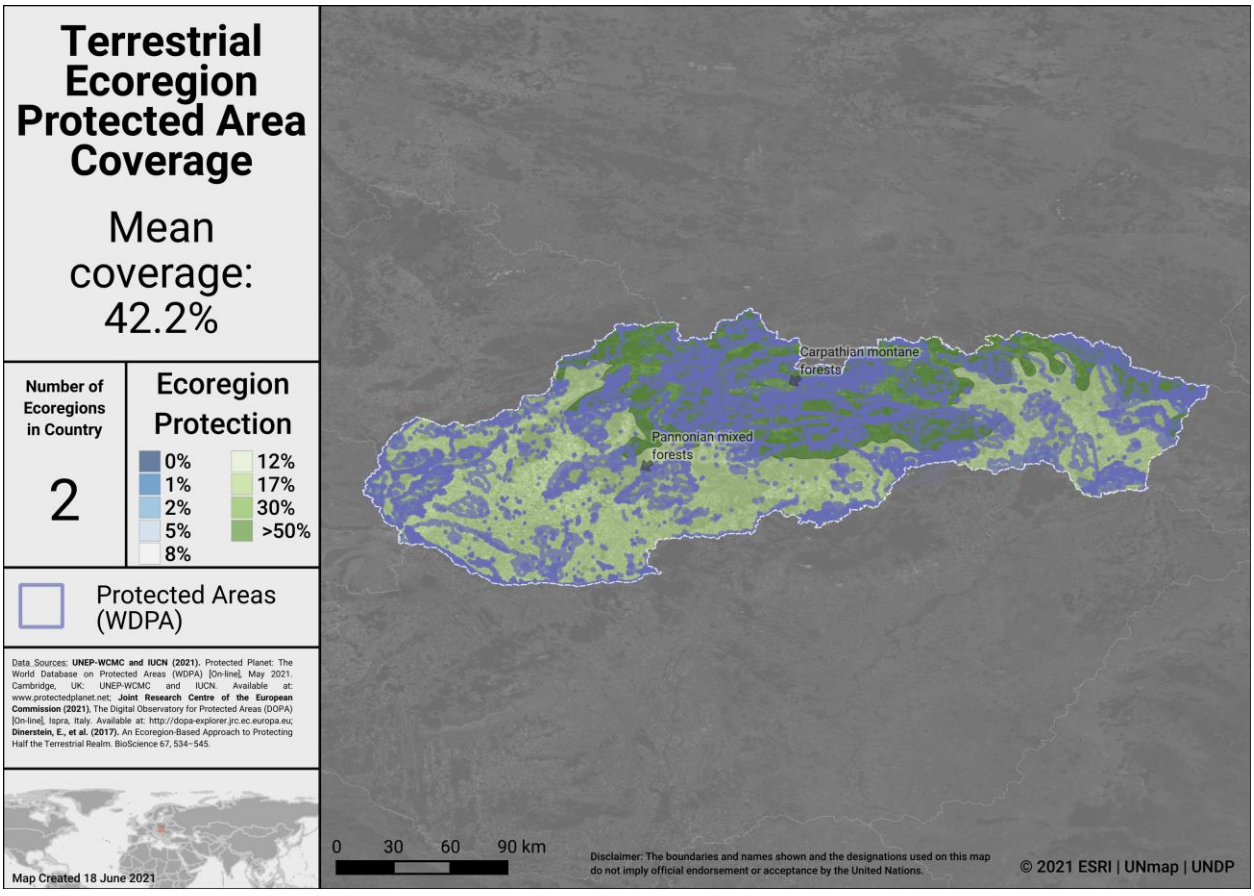
Ecological representativeness is assessed based on the PAs and OECMs coverage of broad-scale biogeographic units. Globally, ecoregions have been described for terrestrial areas (Dinerstein et al, 2017), marine coastal and shelf ecosystems (to a depth of 200m; Spalding et al 2007) and surface pelagic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

Slovakia has 2 **terrestrial** ecoregions. Out of these:

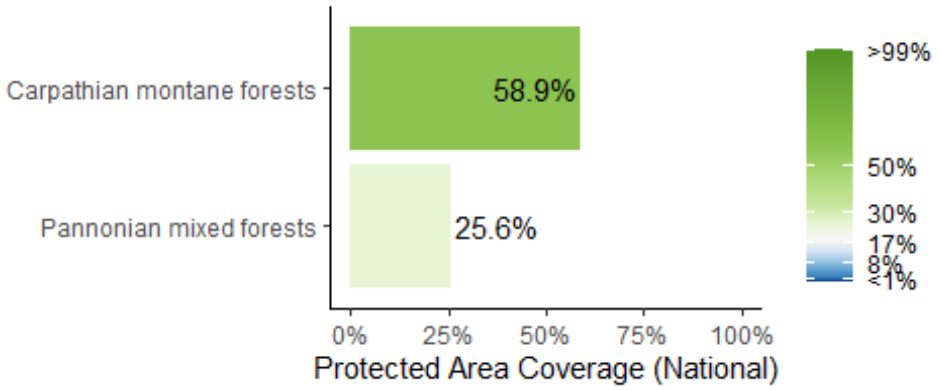
- Both ecoregions have at least 17% protected within the country.
- The average terrestrial coverage of ecoregions is 42.2%.

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

Representative habitat types of European interest are included in the network of Natura 2000 sites, progressively designated in a national category of PAs in the Alpine and Pannonian biogeographic regions defined in the EU.



Terrestrial ecoregions in Slovakia



Terrestrial ecoregions of the World (TEOW) in Slovakia

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Slovakia to increase protection in terrestrial ecoregions that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs, and to focus on effective management for those that have higher coverage.

AREAS IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY

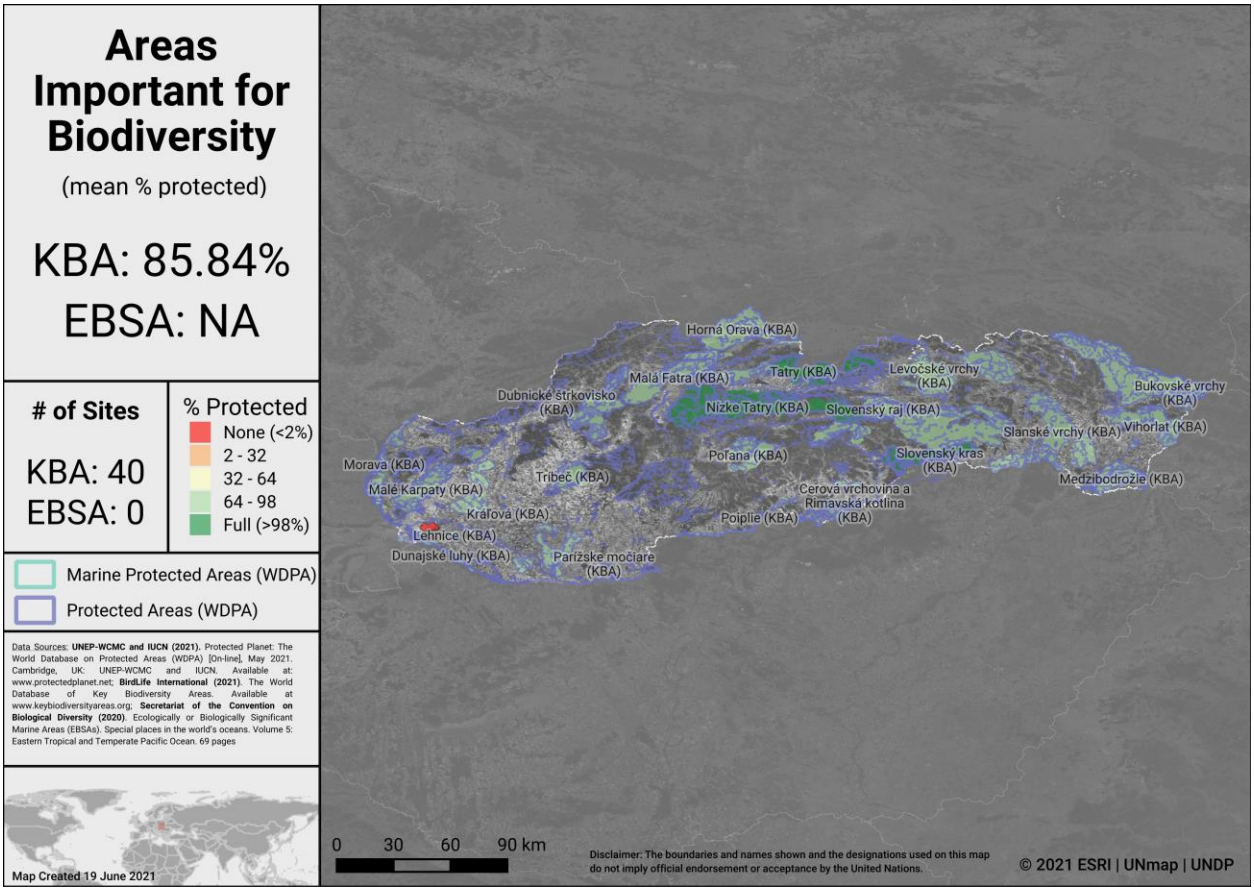
Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

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

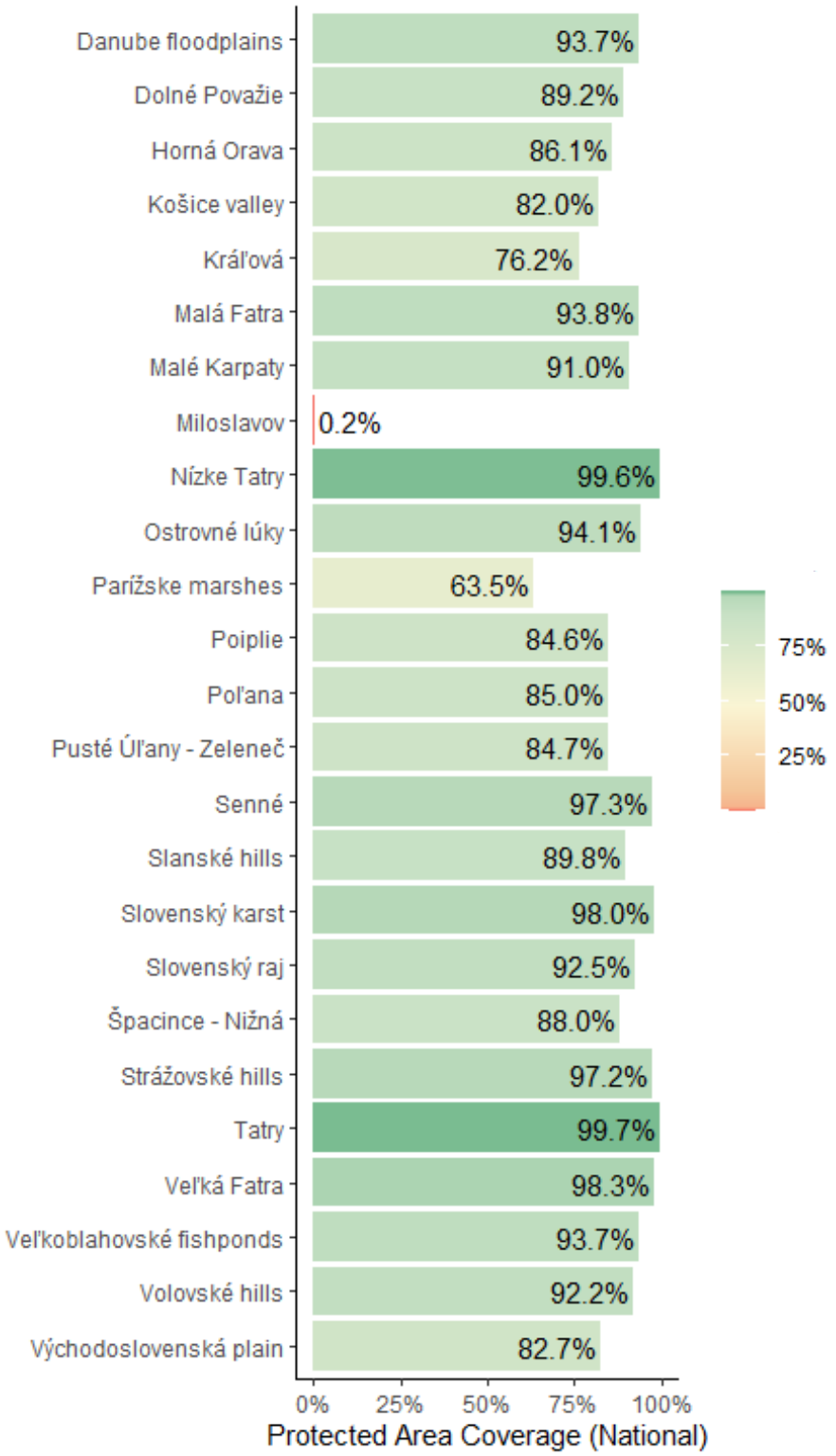
Slovakia has **40** Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

- Mean percent coverage of all KBAs by PAs and OECMs in Slovakia is **85.8%**.
- **4** KBAs have full (>98%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **35** KBAs have partial coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **1** KBA has no (<2%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.

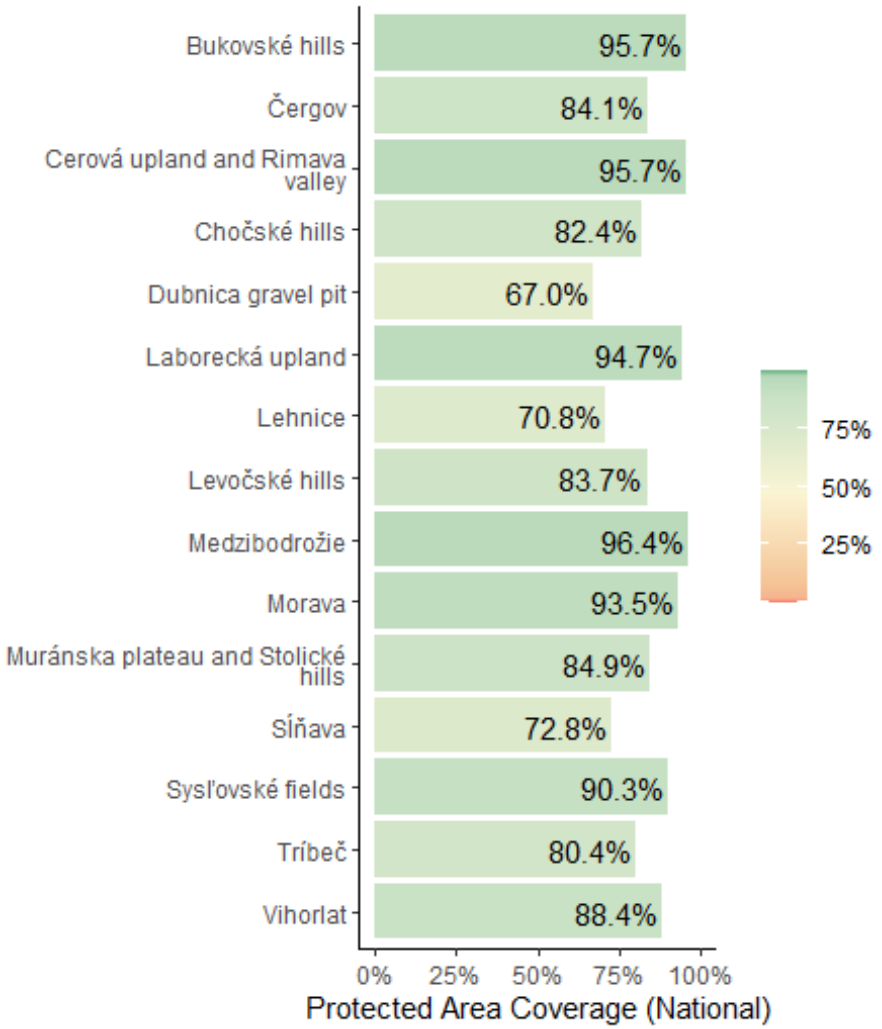
Most of these areas are designated as Special Protection Areas (for the protection of birds – there are 41 in total in Slovakia); they are part of the Natura 2000 network, and overlap with other categories of PAs.



Areas Important for Biodiversity in Slovakia



Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Slovakia



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

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Slovakia to increase protection of KBAs that have lower levels of coverage by PAs and OECMs, and to focus on effective management for those that already have adequate coverage; priority could be given to the 1 KBA with no current coverage.

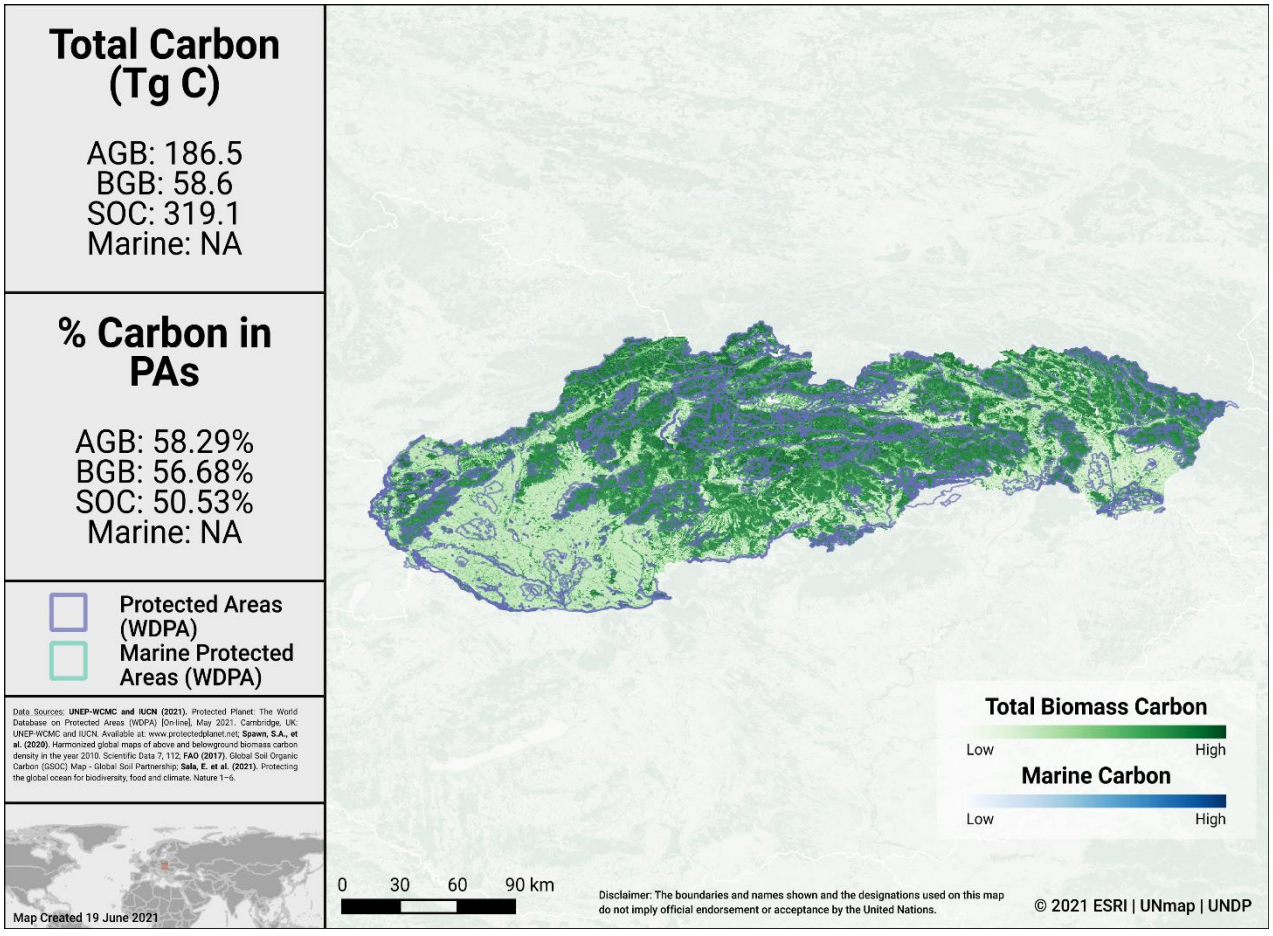
AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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

Carbon

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

The map below presents the total carbon stocks in Slovakia and the percent of carbon in protected areas. The total carbon stocks is 186.5 Tg C from aboveground biomass (AGB), with 58.3% in PAs; 58.6 Tg C from below ground biomass (BGB), with 56.7% in PAs and 319.1 Tg C from soil organic carbon (SOC), with 50.5% in PAs.



Carbon Stocks in Slovakia

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 Slovakia 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 Slovakia to focus on effective management for PA and OECMs in terrestrial areas with high carbon stocks, as identified in the map above. Protecting areas with high carbon stocks secures the benefits of carbon sequestration in the area.

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

CONNECTIVITY & INTEGRATION

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

Protected Connected Land Indicator (Prot-Conn)

As of January 2021, as reported in the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission's Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) (JRC, 2021), the coverage of protected-connected lands (a measure of the connectivity of terrestrial protected area networks, assessed using the ProtConn indicator) in Slovakia was 28.1%.

PARC-Connectedness Index

In 2019, as assessed using the PARC-Connectedness Index (values ranging from 0-1, indicating low to high connectivity), connectivity in Slovakia is 0.44. This represents an increase from 0.43 in 2010.

Corridors and integration into the wider landscape

Slovak institutions are involved in several projects aimed to support the concept of ecological connectivity, including:

- TRANSGREEN - Integrated Transport and Green Infrastructure Planning in the Danube-Carpathian Region for the Benefit of People and Nature
- ConnectGREEN - Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin
- DANUBEparksCONNECTED - Bridging the Danube Protected Areas towards a Danube Habitat Corridor
- DaRe to Connect - Supporting Danube Region's ecological Connectivity by linking Natura 2000 areas along the Green Belt
- SaveGREEN - Safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube basin

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 Slovakia reported in the WDPA have the following governance types:

- 98.9% 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
- 1.1% **do not** report a governance type
  - (All of which are international designations)

This data will need to be updated to reflect the situation in Slovakia:
There have been 4 private PAs and 10 municipal PAs designated. In total:

- 0.3% are under private governance
  - 0.1% by individual landowners
  - 0.2% by non-profit organisations
- 0.8% are under IPLC governance (by local communities)
- The remainder by federal or national ministry or agency

OECMs

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

Privately Protected Areas (PPAs)

From the response of Slovakia's CBD PoWPA focal point (as reported in Stolton et al 2014):

- **2 PPA**s have been established or recognized in the country.
  - These PPAs cover **0.52 km²**.

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

There is currently no data available on ICCAs for Slovakia (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 Slovakia (see Garnett et al 2018 for details).

Opportunities for action

Explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation, for Slovakia this could relate to shared governance., etc.

There is also opportunity for Slovakia 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, Slovakia has 1,892 PAs reported in the WDPA; of these PAs, 32 (1.7%) have management effectiveness evaluations reported in the global database on protected area management effectiveness (GD-PAME).

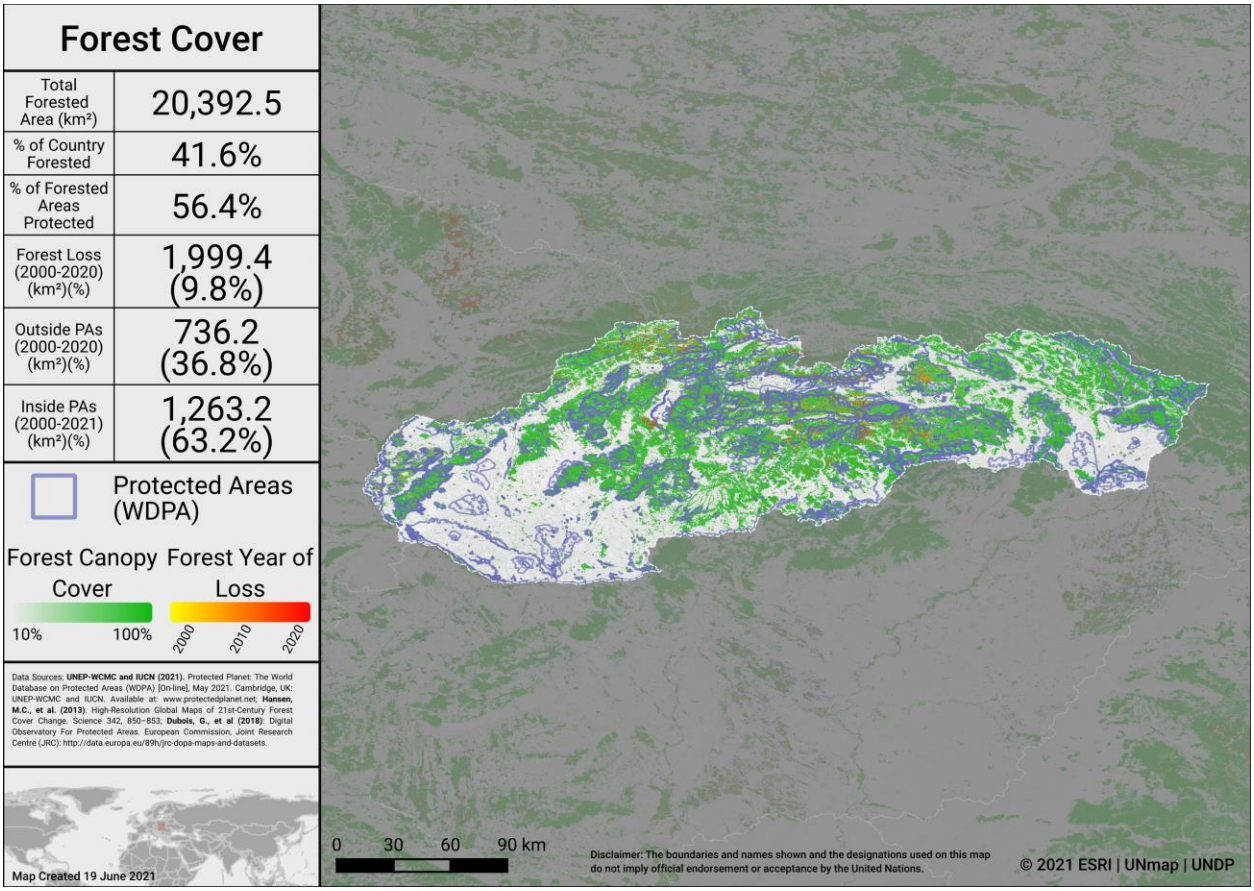
- 22.3% (10,894 km^2) of the terrestrial area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
  - 59.2% of the area of terrestrial PAs have completed evaluations.

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

As of May 2021, there are 0 OECMs in Slovakia 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 Slovakia cover approximately 41.6% of the country, an area of 20,392.5 km^2. Approximately 56.4% (11,506.3 km^2) of this is within the protected area estate of Slovakia. Over the period 2000-2020 loss of forest cover amounted to over 1,999.4 km^2, or 4.1% of the country (9.8% of forest area), of which 1,263.2 km^2 (63.2% of forest loss) occurred within protected areas. The map below shows how forest cover has changed in Slovakia 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 Slovakia

Opportunities for action

The 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has not** been met for terrestrial PAs, therefore, there is opportunity to increase protected area management effectiveness (PAME) evaluations 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 Central and Eastern Europe on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 took place 14 - 17 June 2016 in Minsk, Belarus. 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: Designation of the 97 small scale sites, which will increase PA coverage by 0.36%; Prepare for designation of other areas

Ecological representation: The procedure leading to designation of NATURA 2000 sites.

Areas Important for biodiversity and ecosystem services:

1) Carry out the basement of ecosystem services and creation of ES catalogue.
2) Finalising the management plans for all Special Protection Areas (Natura 2000).

Connectivity: Implementation of two Danube Transnational Programme projects aimed to support the concept of ecological connectivity (Transgreen, Connectgreen).

Management effectiveness: Encourage the use of the CCPAMETT.

Governance and Equity: Communication of PA managers with the stakeholders, better involvement of local people, raising responsibility of stakeholders for the protection of the areas (support of participatory management.) BfN and Propark study on Governance in EE.

Integration: Finding resources for trainings. Learning from countries abroad and sharing the information with PA practitioners at various occasions.

OECMs: Collection of data.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

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

Target A.1: To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats, especially those covered by EU legislation, and achieve a significant and measurable improvement in their condition.

Updates on progress:

Terrestrial coverage and Ecological representation:

- Designation of additional sites to the national list of areas of European importance (Natura 2000 sites) and small-scale sites
- In 2017 additional 169 sites were listed to the national list of areas of European importance (Sites of Community Interest) covering 31,656 ha (0.6 % coverage of Slovakia)
- In 2016 one Nature Reserve was declared and zoning of one National Park was adopted
- In 2019 one private Nature Reserve was declared and 1 Natural Monument
- In 2020 nine PAs were declared and 3 were amended (extended)

Areas Important for biodiversity and ecosystem services:

- Finalising the management plans for all
- Special Protection Areas 6 management plans for SPAs were adopted in 2017
- 7 management plans were adopted in 2018
- 5 management plans were adopted in 2019
- 2 management plans were adopted in 2020
- Other management plans are in the process of approval and/or development

Connectivity:

- Implementation of two DTP projects
- Slovak institutions were or still are (2017-2021) involved in several EU Interreg Danube Transnational Programme projects aimed to support the concept of ecological connectivity:
    - *TRANSGREEN* - Integrated Transport and Green Infrastructure Planning in the Danube-Carpathian Region for the Benefit of People and Nature
    - *ConnectGREEN* - Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin
    - *DANUBEparksCONNECTED* - Bridging the Danube Protected Areas towards a Danube Habitat Corridor
    - *DaRe to Connect* - Supporting Danube Region's ecological Connectivity by linking Natura 2000 areas along the Green Belt

    - *SaveGREEN* - Safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube basin

- Main ecological corridors for large carnivores as umbrella species were identified.
- Documents of Regional Territorial System of Ecological Stability (including core areas – bio-centres and bio-corridors) have been updated for number of regions.

Governance and equity:

- raising responsibility of stakeholders for the protection of the areas
- 10 community / municipality protected areas were declared between 2015-2020:
    - 2015 – 1
    - 2016 – 3
    - 2017 – 4
    - 2020 - 2

OTHER ACTIONS/COMMITMENTS

Leaders' Pledge for Nature

Slovakia **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.

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

Slovakia is blessed with diverse and beautiful nature. We protect it by law. Our clean water is so vital that we are protect it by our Constitution. We also know the importance of healthy forests. Slovakia has established 10 new protected areas, and two national reservations.

Amendments to the decree implementing the Act on nature and landscape protection were adopted in 2021 improving the conditions for conservation and management of protected areas, including introduction of IUCN management categories into documentation for protected areas. Additional amendments to the Act on nature protection are under negotiations.

9 PAs were declared and 3 were amended (extended); an additional 2 community / municipality PAs were declared in 2020;

10 PAs (including 1 private protected site) were declared and 5 were amended by June 2021.

High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

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

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

ANNEX I

FULL LIST OF ECOREGIONS

Ecoregion Name	Area (km^2)	% of Global Ecoregion in Country	% of Country in Ecoregion	Area Protected (km^2)	% Protected in Country
Carpathian montane forests	17,536.7	14.0	35.8	10,320.4	58.9
Pannonian mixed forests	31,489.6	10.2	64.2	8,062.5	25.6

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