



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: SOLOMON ISLANDS

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GLOSSARY

AZEs	Alliance for Zero Extinction sites
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GD-PAME	Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IBA	Important Bird and Biodiversity Area
ICCAs	Indigenous and Community Conserved Area Area (may also be referred to as territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities or “territories of life”)
IPLC	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
MEOW	Marine Ecosystems of the World
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
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.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

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

Coverage - Terrestrial & Marine

- **Status:** as of May 2021, terrestrial coverage in Solomon Islands is 530.4 km² (1.8%) and marine coverage is 1,879.4 km² (0.1%).
- **Opportunities for action:** opportunities for the near-term include updating the [WDPA](#) with any unreported PAs, and the recognizing and reporting OECMs to the [WD-OECM](#). In the future, focus on relatively intact areas, while addressing the elements in the following sections, could be considered when planning new PAs or OECMs.

Ecological Representativeness— Terrestrial & Marine

- **Status:** Solomon Islands contains 2 terrestrial ecoregions, 2 marine ecoregions, and 1 pelagic province: the mean coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 0.9% (terrestrial), 1.6% (marine), and 0.0% (pelagic); 1 terrestrial ecoregion and 1 marine ecoregion have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs (and 1 pelagic province has <0.1% coverage).
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Solomon Islands to increase protection in terrestrial and marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs. Ecoregions which currently have no coverage by PAs or OECMs are key areas for action.



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Areas Important for Biodiversity

- **Status:** Solomon Islands has 37 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): the mean coverage of KBAs by reported PAs and OECMs is 5.8%, while 31 KBAs have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Solomon Islands to increase protection of KBAs that have lower levels of coverage by PAs and OECMs; priority could be given to those with no current coverage.

Areas Important for Ecosystem Services

- **Status:** coverage of areas important for ecosystem services: In Solomon Islands, 1.2% of aboveground biomass carbon, 1.2% of belowground biomass carbon, 2.3% of soil organic carbon, 0.3% of carbon stored in marine sediments is covered by PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** for carbon, there is opportunity for Solomon Islands 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 1.5%.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for a general increase of PAs or OECMs and to focus on PA and OECM management for enhancing and maintaining connectivity. Increasing connectivity increases the effectiveness of PAs and OECMs and reduces the impacts of fragmentation.
- As well, a range of suggested steps for enhancing and supporting integration are included in the voluntary guidance on the integration of PAs and OECMs into the wider land- and seascapes and mainstreaming across sectors to contribute, inter alia, to the SDGs (Annex I of COP Decision 14/8).

Governance Diversity

- **Status:** the most common governance type(s) for reported PAs in Solomon Islands is: 58.7% under IPLCs (53.3% Indigenous Peoples; 5.4% local communities).
- **Opportunities for action:** Increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 39.1% of sites that do not have their governance type reported. If applicable, explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation.



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- There is also opportunity for Solomon Islands 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:** 58.2% of terrestrial PAs and 27.6% of marine PAs have completed Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessments reported.
- **Opportunities for action:** the 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has not** been met for terrestrial PAs and **has not** been met for marine PAs. Therefore, there is opportunity to increase protected area management effectiveness (PAME) evaluations for both terrestrial and marine PAs to achieve the target.
- There is also opportunity to implement the results of completed PAME evaluations, to improve the quality of management for existing PAs and OECMs (e.g. through adaptive management and information sharing, increasing the number of sites reporting 'sound management') and to increase reporting of biodiversity outcomes in PAs and OECMs.



INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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



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commitments to the UN. Furthermore, where data is available, this dossier provides information on potential OECMs, Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs; also often referred to as territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities or “territories of life”) and Privately Protected Areas (PPAs) and the potential contribution they will have in achieving the post-2020 targets.

The information on PAs and OECMs presented here is derived from the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM). These databases are joint products of UNEP and IUCN, managed by UNEP-WCMC, and can be viewed and downloaded at www.protectedplanet.net. Parties are encouraged to provide data on their PAs and OECMs to UNEP-WCMC for incorporation into the databases (see e.g. Decisions 10/31 and 14/8). The significant efforts of Parties in updating their data in the build up to the publication of the Protected Planet Report 2020 (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2021) were greatly appreciated. UNEP-WCMC welcomes further updates, following the data standards described here (www.wcmc.io/WDPA_Manual), and these should be directed to protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org. The statistics presented in this dossier are derived from the May 2021 WDPA and WD-OECM releases, unless explicitly stated otherwise. Readers should consult www.protectedplanet.net for the latest coverage statistics (updated monthly).

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

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

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



SECTION I: CURRENT STATUS

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



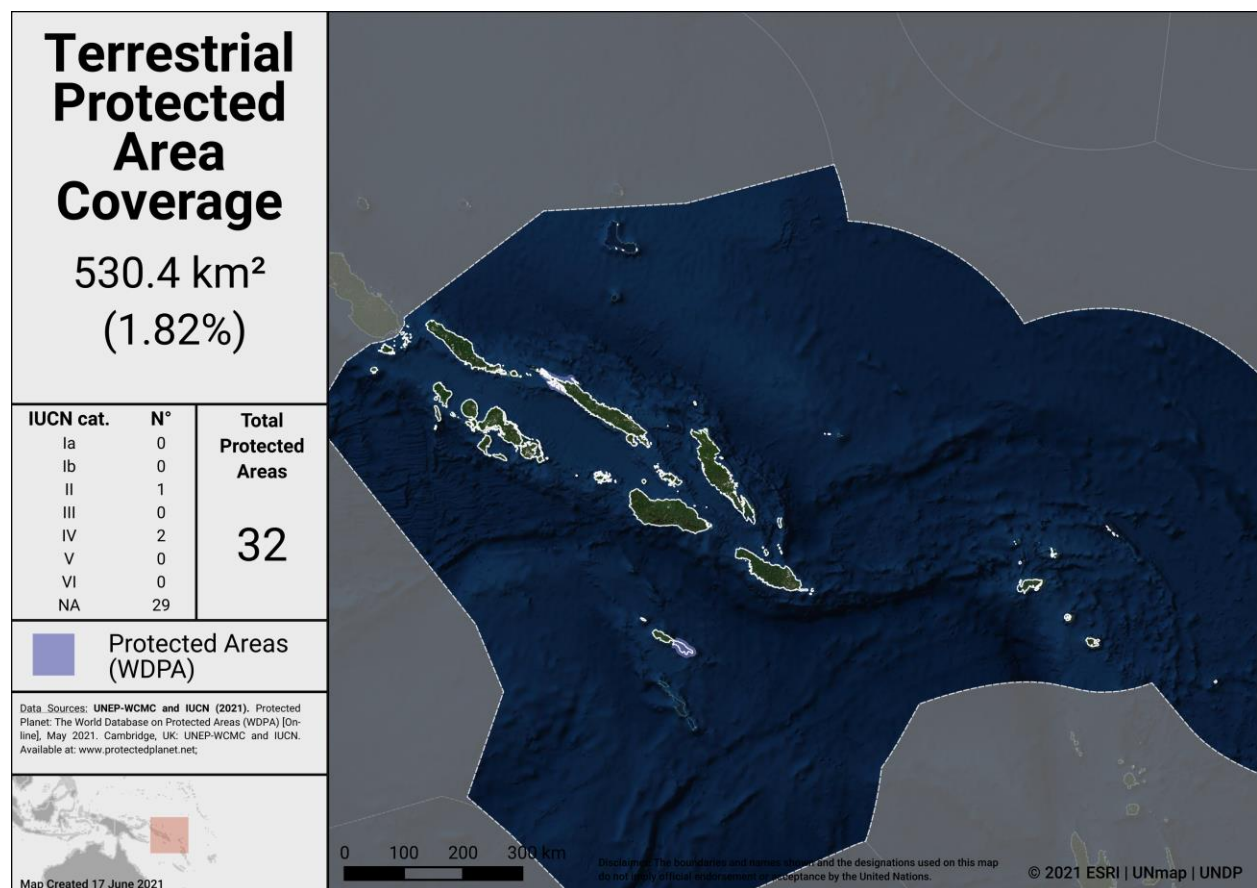
COVERAGE - TERRESTRIAL & MARINE

As of May 2021, Solomon Islands has **92** protected areas reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). 4 PAs that are proposed or have a status of ‘not reported’, and 3 PAs that have no spatial boundary and no area listed in the WDPA, are not included in the following statistics (see details on UNWP-WCMC’s methods for calculating PA and OECM coverage [here](#)).

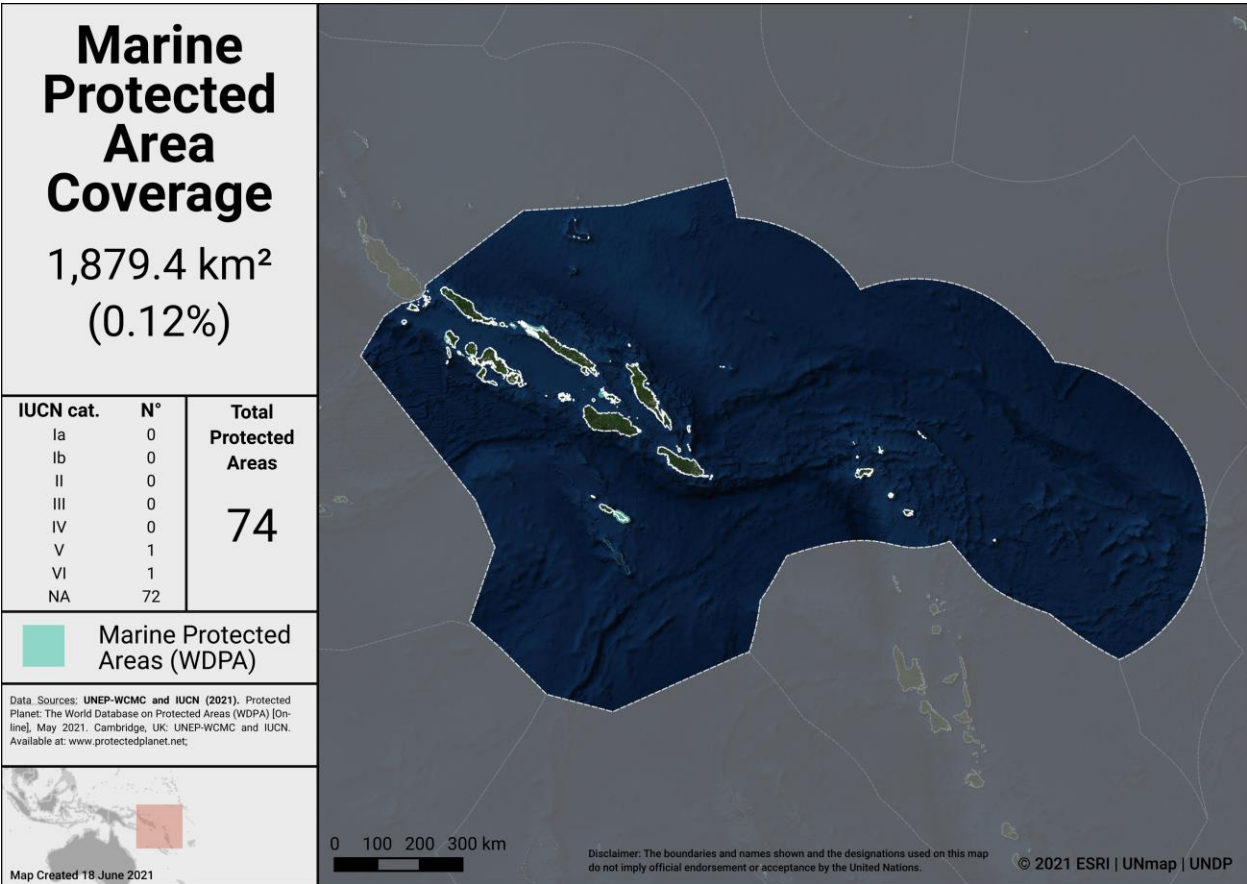
As of May 2021, Solomon Islands has **0** OECMs reported in the world database on OECMs (WD-OECM).

Current coverage for Solomon Islands:

- 1.8% terrestrial (32 protected areas, 530.4 km²)
- 0.1% marine (74 protected areas, 1,879.4 km²)



Terrestrial Protected Areas in Solomon Islands



Marine Protected Areas in Solomon Islands

Potential OECMs

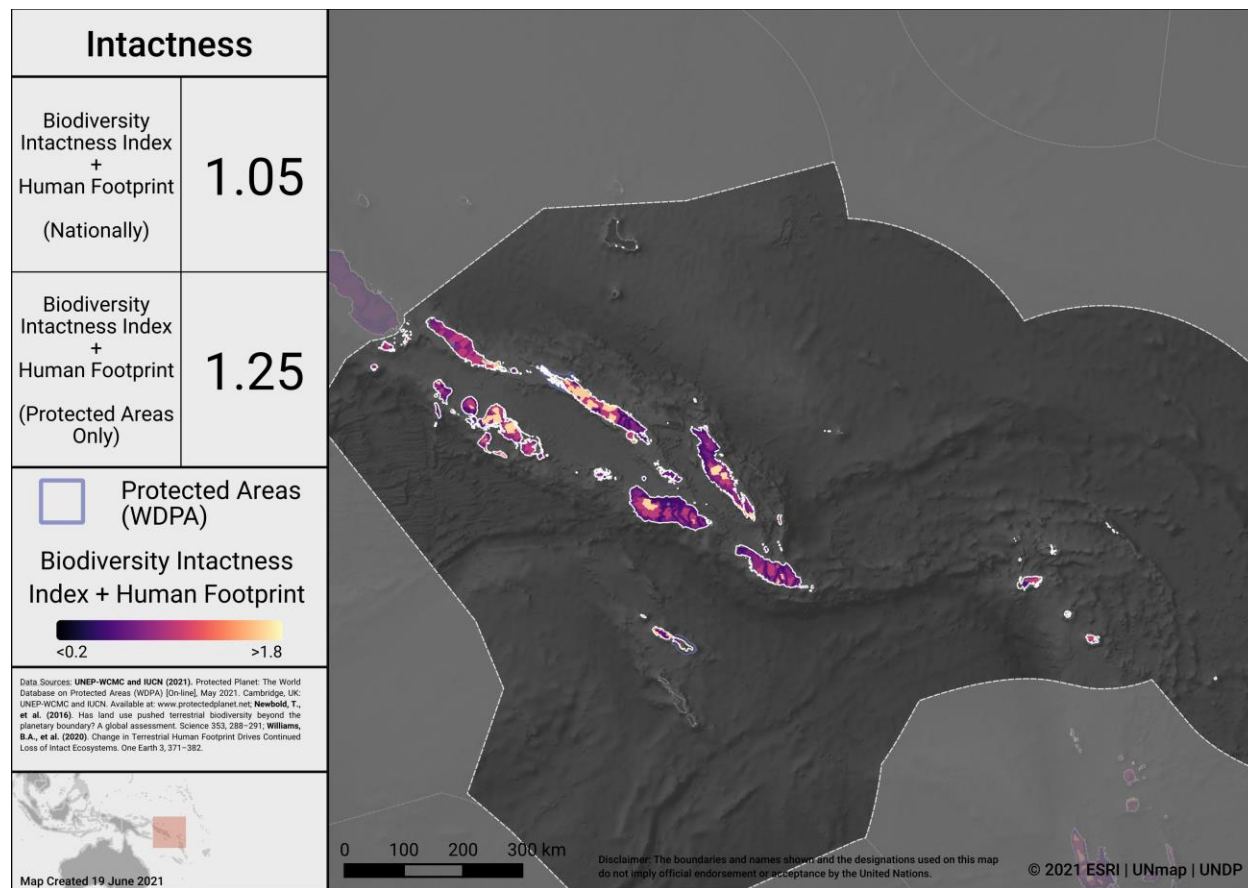
Examples of potential OECMs in Solomon Islands include:

Potential OECM example	Area covered
Zaira Community, Vangunu Island, Western Province.	2850 ha terrestrial; 2300 ha marine

For additional details on these potential OECMs, see Annex I in this dossier.

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



Intactness in Solomon Islands

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

ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS – TERRESTRIAL & MARINE

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

Solomon Islands has 2 **terrestrial** ecoregions. Out of these:

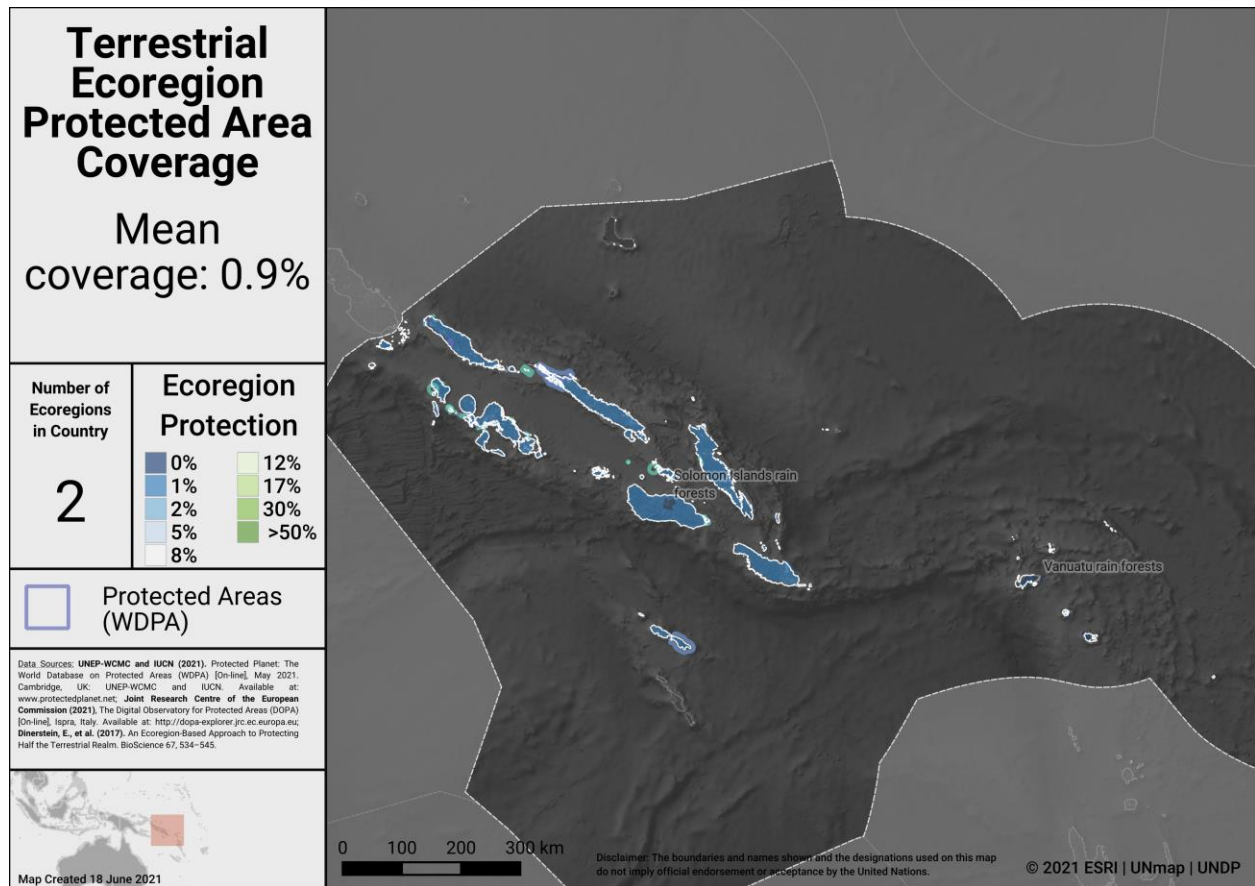
- 1 ecoregion has at least some coverage from PAs and OECMs.
- 0 ecoregions have at least 17% protected within the country.
- The average coverage of terrestrial ecoregions is 0.9%.

Solomon Islands has 2 **marine** ecoregions and 1 **pelagic province**. Out of these:

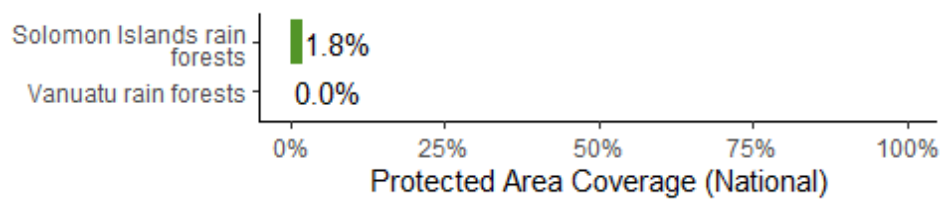
- 1 marine ecoregion and 1 pelagic province have at least some coverage from reported PAs and OECMs.
- 0 marine ecoregions and 0 pelagic provinces have at least 10% protected within Solomon Islands' exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
- The average coverage of marine ecoregions is 1.6% and the coverage of the 1 pelagic province is <0.1%.

A full list of terrestrial ecoregions in Solomon Islands is available in Annex II.



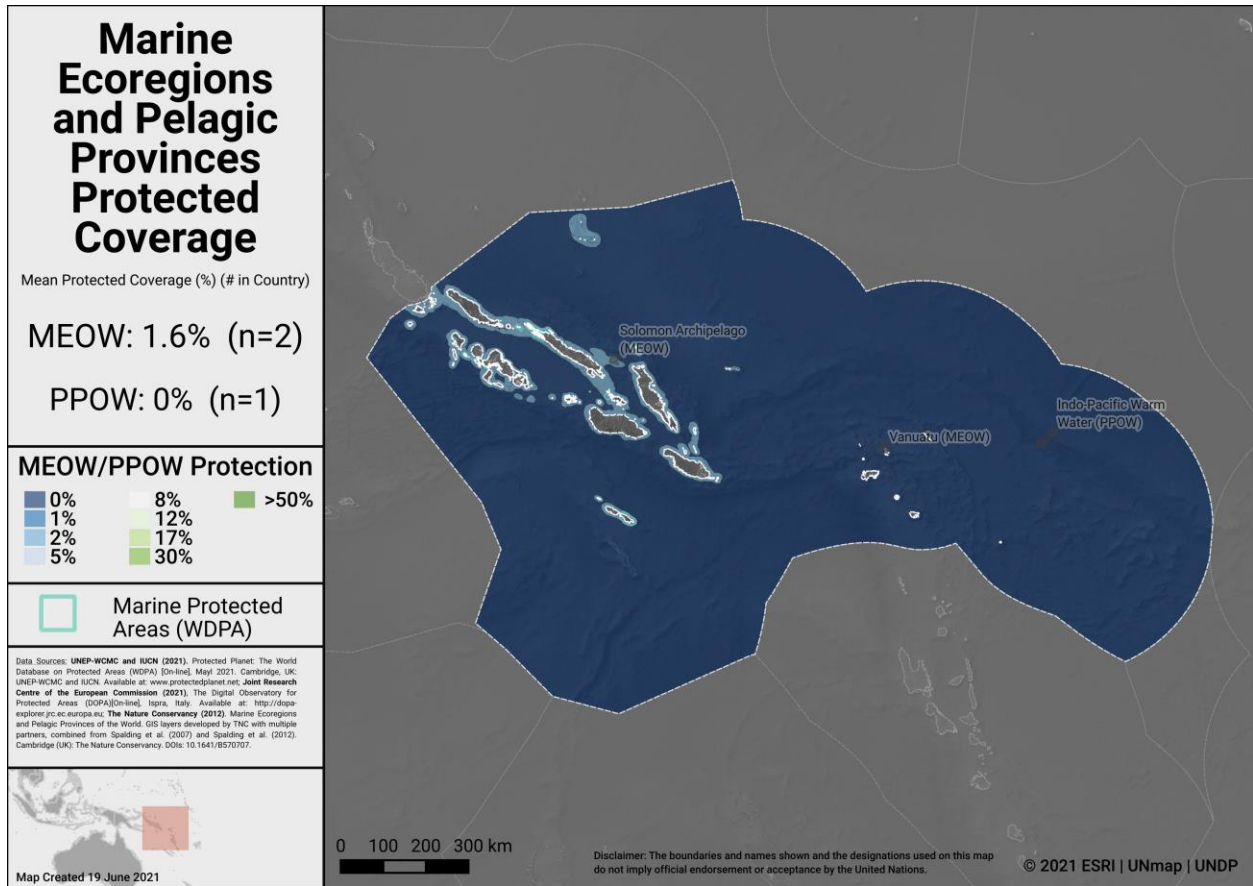


Terrestrial ecoregions in Solomon Islands

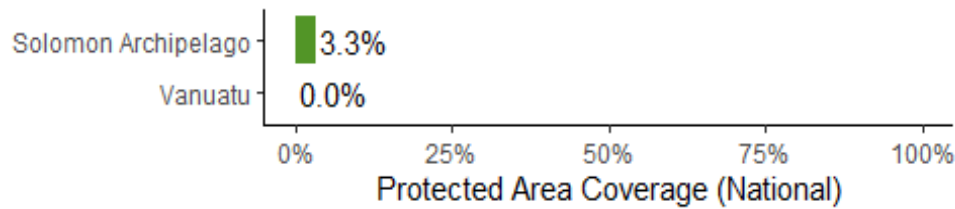


Terrestrial ecoregions of the World (TEOW) in Solomon Islands



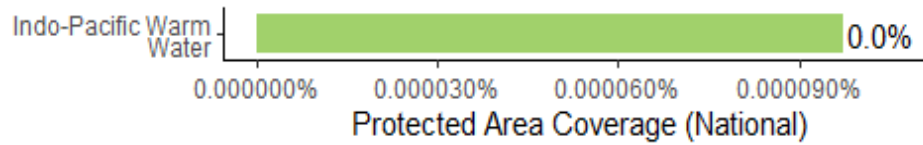


Marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces



Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW) in Solomon Islands





Pelagic Provinces of the World (PPOW) in Solomon Islands

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Solomon Islands to increase protection in terrestrial and marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs. Ecoregions which currently have no, or very low, coverage by PAs or OECMs are key areas for action.



AREAS IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

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

Solomon Islands has **37** Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

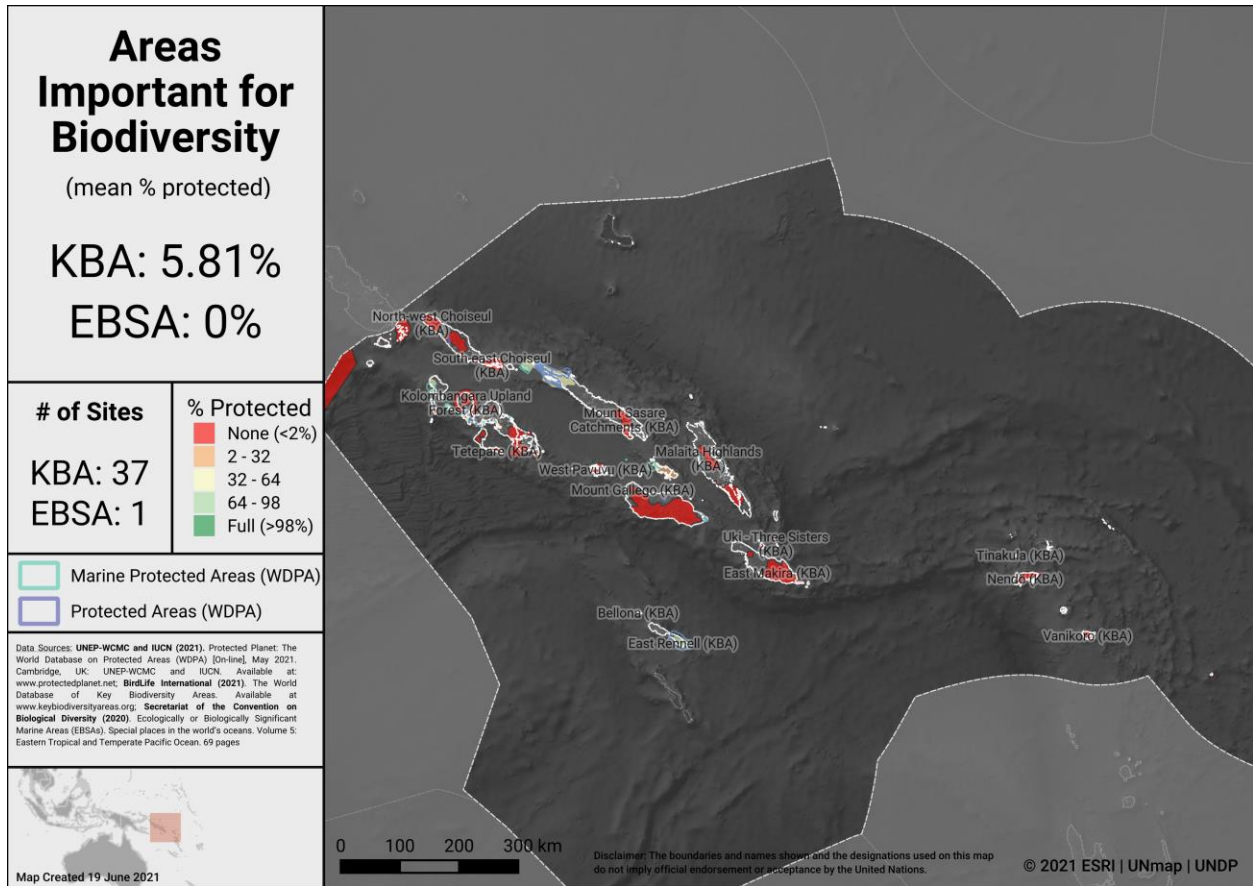
- Mean percent coverage of all KBAs by PAs and OECMs in Solomon Islands is **5.8%**.
- **0** KBAs have full (>98%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **6** KBAs have partial coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **31** KBAs have no (<2%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.

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 is 1 EBSA with some portion of its extent within Solomon Islands' EEZ, which has no coverage from PAs or OECMs.

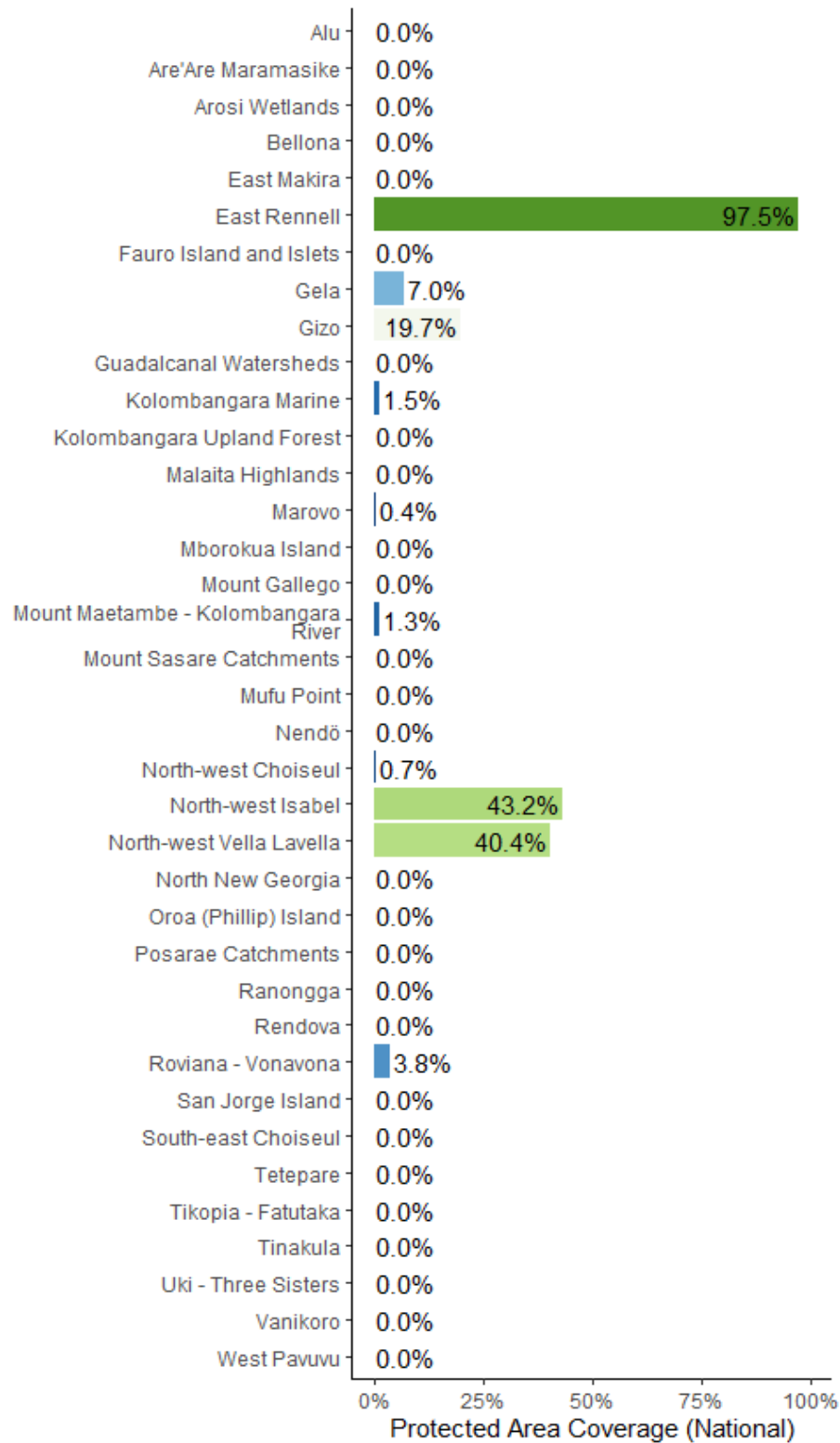




Areas Important for Biodiversity in Solomon Islands



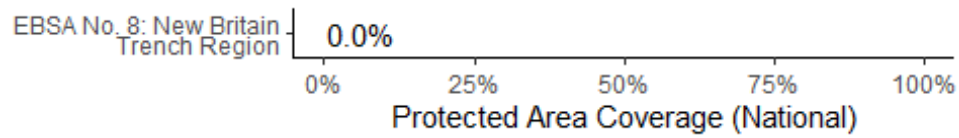
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Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Solomon Islands



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Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in Solomon Islands

Opportunities for action

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

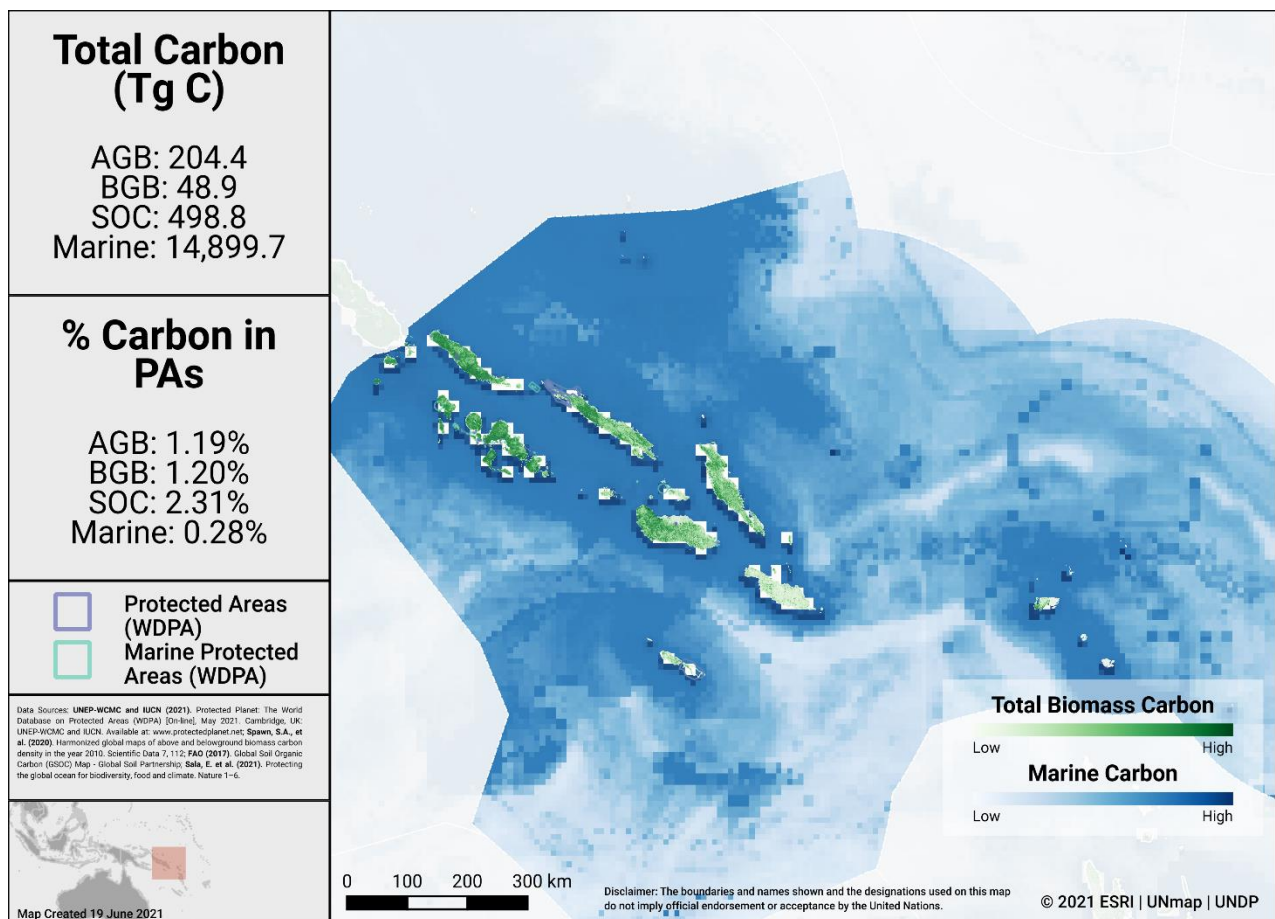
AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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

Carbon

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

The map below presents the total carbon stocks in Solomon Islands and the percent of carbon in protected areas. The total carbon stocks is 204.4 Tg C from aboveground biomass (AGB), with 1.2% in protected areas; 48.9 Tg C from below ground biomass (BGB), with 1.2% in protected areas; 498.8 Tg C from soil organic carbon (SOC), with 2.3% in protected areas; and 14,899.7 Tg C from marine sediment carbon, with 0.3% in protected areas.



Carbon Stocks in Solomon Islands

Water

Forests and intact ecosystems 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 Solomon Islands may similarly depend on protected 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 Solomon Islands 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 Solomon Islands was 1.5%.

PARC-Connectedness Index

In 2019, as assessed using the PARC-Connectedness Index (values ranging from 0-1, indicating low to high connectivity), connectivity in Solomon Islands is 0.41. This represents a decrease from 0.43 in 2010.

Corridor case studies

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

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for a general increase of PAs or OECMs and to focus on PA and OECM management for enhancing and maintaining connectivity. Increasing connectivity increases the effectiveness of PAs and OECMs and reduces the impacts of fragmentation.

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



GOVERNANCE DIVERSITY

There is a lack of comprehensive global data on governance quality and equity in PAs and OECMs. Here, we provide data on the diversity of governance types for reported PAs and OECMs.

As of May 2021, PAs in Solomon Islands reported in the WDPA have the following governance types:

- 1.1% are governed by **governments** (by federal or national ministry or agency)
- 1.1% are under **shared** governance (by collaborative governance)
- 0.0% are under **private** governance
- 58.7% are under **IPLC** governance
 - 53.3% by Indigenous Peoples
 - 5.4% by local communities
- 39.1% **do not** report a governance type

OECMs

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

Potential OECM (Zaira Community, Vangunu Island, Western Province) is governed by Indigenous Peoples/Local Community (see IUCN, 2017 and Annex I for further details).

Privately Protected Areas (PPAs)

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

Information on territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (ICCAs) reported from CBD technical series case studies:

From Kothari et al. (2012) potential ICCAs (or similar designation) in Solomon Islands include:

- **109 CCAs** (total area is not known)
- **113 LMMAs** (locally managed marine areas) covering **941 km²**.

Other Indigenous lands

There is currently no data available on the total area of lands managed and/or controlled by Indigenous Peoples in Solomon Islands (for details on analysis see Garnett et al., 2018).

Opportunities for action

Increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 39.1% of sites that do not have their governance type reported. If applicable, explore opportunities for governance types that have lower representation.



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

Equator Prize Projects

The Equator Initiative brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses and grassroots organizations to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. The Equator Prize projects provide examples of unique and locally based governance of natural resources. Solomon Islands has the following Equator Prize winners that showcase examples of local, sustainable community action:

Organization	Year	Project Description
Tetepare Descendants' Association (TDA)	2012	<p>Tetepare Descendants' Association (TDA) officially represents the legal owners of Tetepare Island, the largest uninhabited island in the tropical Pacific and one of the last remaining unlogged tropical islands in world. To resist pressures from industrial logging companies, the association has created 'community conservation agreements' whereby Indigenous landholders are provided with alternative livelihood opportunities in exchange for a commitment to the sustainable management of marine and forest resources. The association carries out terrestrial and biological monitoring. A marine protected area has been established as a permanent no-take zone, serving as a nursery and refuge for fish.</p> <p>Fish abundance has grown substantially, as have local incomes. Individual species such as coconut crabs, certain species of seagrass, giant clams, and endangered sea turtles are targeted through tailored community protection measures. The association also operates a community ecotourism enterprise, which centers on an eco-lodge that provides jobs for community members. Training has also been provided in coconut oil production, marketing, and agriculture. A scholarship program has been established to enable local youth to pursue high education, trade school, and vocational training.</p>



Organization	Year	Project Description
Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Area Management Committee	2008	<p>The Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Area Management Committee was established in 1995 as the first community-managed marine conservation area in the Solomon Islands. The 157-km² area is home to nesting grounds of the endangered Hawksbill sea turtle. This Marine Protected Area, created to stem the overexploitation of dwindling marine resources, attracts ecotourism that provides a valuable source of income for local communities. Local youth are employed as monitors and high school students are brought on tours to learn about the group's conservation efforts. A management committee that represents the three founding villages – Kia, Wagina and Katupika – helps resolve resource conflicts.</p> <p>In partnership with The Nature Conservancy, this initiative has led attempts to diversify sources of income and nutrition for the villages' fishing communities, including making handicrafts for visiting tourists, seaweed harvesting, and small-scale agriculture.</p>



Photo from the Equator Prize Winner



PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

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

Protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessments

As of May 2021, Solomon Islands has 92 PAs reported in the WDPA; of these PAs, 1 (1.1%) has a management effectiveness evaluation reported in the global database on protected area management effectiveness (GD-PAME).

- 1.1% (309 km²) of the terrestrial area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
 - 58.2% of the area of terrestrial PAs have completed evaluations.
- 0.0% (519 km²) of the marine area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
 - 27.6% of the area of marine PAs have completed evaluations.

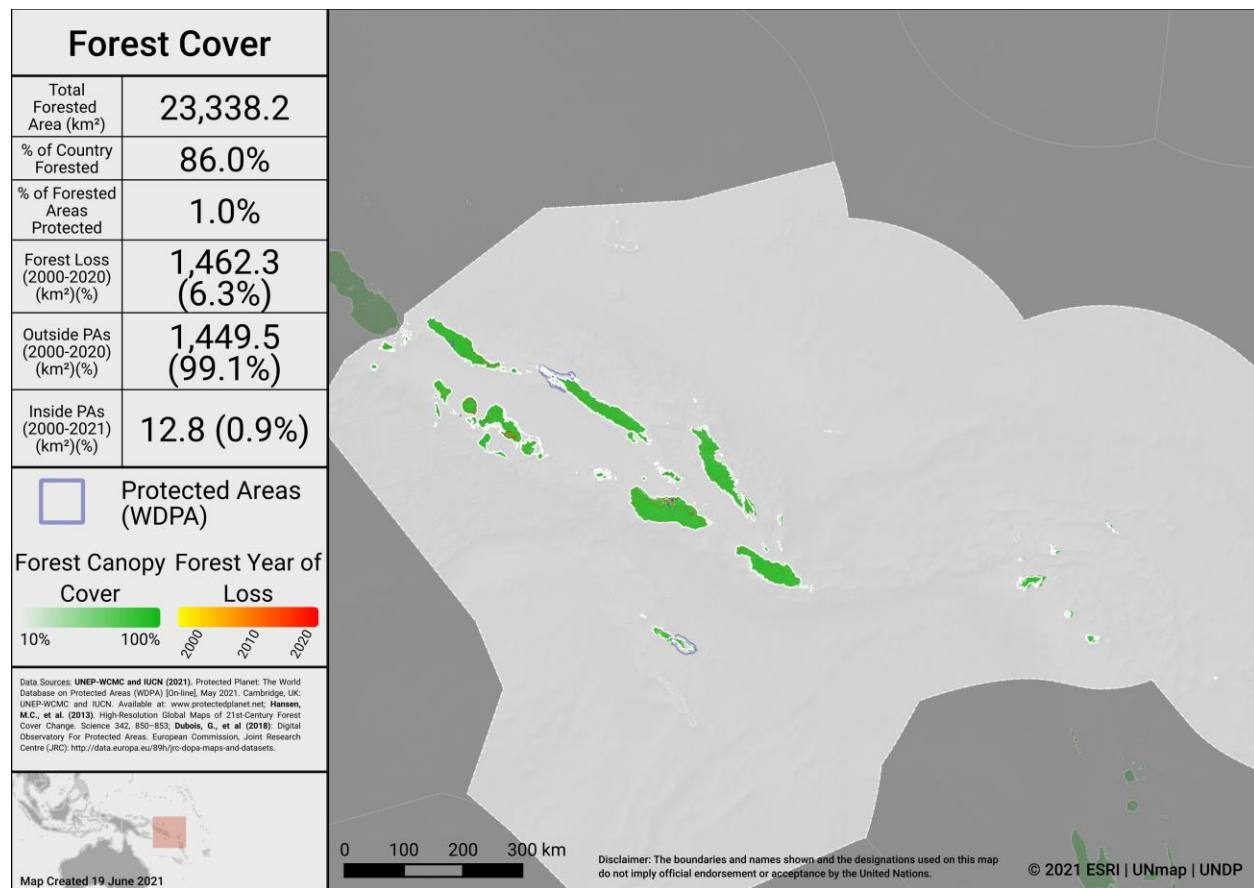
The 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has not** been met for terrestrial PAs and **has not** been met for marine PAs.

As of May 2021, there are 0 OECMs in Solomon Islands reported in the WD-OECM; but there is some information on the conservation effectiveness of potential OECMs (see details in Annex I).

Changes in forest cover in protected areas and OECMs

Forested areas in Solomon Islands cover approximately 86.0% of the country, an area of 23,338.2 km². Approximately 1.0% (243.2 km²) of this is within the protected area estate of Solomon Islands. Over the period 2000-2020 loss of forest cover amounted to over 1,462.3 km², or 5.4% of the country (6.3% of forested area), of which 12.8 km² (0.9% of forested area) occurred within protected areas. The map below shows how forest cover has changed in Solomon Islands 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 Solomon Islands

Opportunities for action

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

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

SECTION II: EXISTING PROTECTED AREA AND OECM COMMITMENTS

PRIORITY ACTIONS FROM 2015-2016 REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

National priority actions for Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 were provided by Parties following a series of regional workshops in 2015 and 2016. The Capacity-building workshop for Pacific on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 took place 11 - 13 July 2016 in Nadi, Fiji. Progress towards the quantitative targets for marine and terrestrial coverage has been assessed based on data reported in the WDPA and WD-OECM as of 2021. For more information, see the workshop report at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/>

Summary from the workshop:

Priority actions and identified opportunities, if completed as proposed, will provide benefits for the qualifying elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.

The following actions were identified during the workshops:

Terrestrial and marine coverage:

- 1) Implement and track GEF- 5/6 PA outcomes (GEF-5 Implementation- add 100,000ha +3% TPA) [See GEF project #5122]
- 2) Update PA status, coverage for terrestrial and marine – update the National database, input into SPREP PA Portal and then submit to WDPA.
- 3) Develop and implement PA roadmap to achieving Aichi Target 11 – Review and Update POWPA Plan. Reviewed NBSAP draft to include gaps.
- 4) Protected Areas Act 2010 declarations – 1 to be declared 2015; 9 more in progress towards legal declaration by 2 years: Giving legal recognition to existing PAs.

Ecological representation:

- 1) Develop ecological maps for each Provinces.
- 2) Review status of existing KBAs and AZEs & IBAs
- 3) Target full protection for at least 2 AZEs and partial protection of 3 at least AZEs (numbers can be change per review).

Areas Important for biodiversity and ecosystem services:

- 1) Map Priorities Areas important for biodiversity and areas important for ecosystem services.
- 2) Target full protection for at least 2 AZEs and partial protection of 3 at least AZEs.



Connectivity:

- 1) Review and updated connectivity and corridor studies – Map areas
- 2) Work with Partners/stakeholders to identify these sites within KBAs and other potential sites – based on priority species.

Management effectiveness:

- 1) Develop and finalize Management Effectiveness (ME) assessment tools/manuals.
- 2) Conduct ME assessments in PAs/proposed PAs.
- 3) Work with PA practitioners for reporting Management effectiveness ratings for sites.
- 4) Input into national databases (Level 2 for MPAs/ LMMAs).

Governance and Equity:

- 1) Establish National PA Technical Team – Govt. Province, NGOs, practitioners, community reps.
- 2) Conduct socio-economic assessment for PAs – what benefits did communities derive from PAs. Governance Assessment, Social Assessment of PAs
- 3) National classifying Governance & Equity categories for existing Pas – Assessing Equity – Using Governance Matrix; (Review in particular Private governance PAs. E.g., Njari Island, Chea, Uepi, Dive spots, Community agreements)
- 4) Review M& E questionnaires for PAs evaluation.
- 5) Linking National categories with IUCN Categories
- 6) Strengthen incorporation of traditional knowledge into Management practices.
- 7) Provide better guidance for addressing benefit-sharing arrangements.
- 8) Documenting case-studies on governances/lesson learnt.
- 9) Share information on existing CCAs, endowment funds for potential interest PA groups.

Integration:

- 1) Initiate PA programming with wider land and seascape planning and management – Community level, Provincial level, National level and transboundary.
- 2) Support Provincial level Ridges to Reefs Initiatives for other Provinces – support at least 4 more Provincial land-use planning and profiling.
- 3) Work with Provinces and Communities to integrate PAs into the Provincial Development Plans.



- 4) Conduct economic valuation of PAs for sectors. – Commence with declared PAs under PA Act.

OECMs:

- 1) Conduct Stakeholder learning and best practices forums.
- 2) Clarify PA Categories in SI (Fisheries Act, Forestry Act, PA Act, Provincial Ordinances).
- 3) Trainings – develop guidelines; Capacity building for ECD/other stakeholders >>Protected areas technical/expert groups/network sharing >> training for government, stakeholders, communities on how to develop PA Management Plans.
- 4) Document/ case studies – give more clarity/guidance on what are “other effective area based conservation measures”.
- 5) Develop PA Evaluation /Checklists for assisting officers in supporting and guiding establishment of PAs.



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

Solomon Islands 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 12: By 2020, at least 10 percent of the terrestrial and inland water, and 15 percent of coastal and marine areas of the Solomon Islands are protected and managed effectively, enabling an ecological, representative and well-connected system of protected area, and have been integrated into the wider island and seascape management initiatives

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

- As of May 2021 (based on the WDPA/WD-OECM) has the target been met? **NO**
- Accounting for other projects, actions and commitments, if this target is met, coverage in the country will increase by 0.0 km² (target will be met if both GEF projects completed – see next page for details)

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

- As of May 2021 (based on the WDPA/WD-OECM) has the target been met? **NO**
- Accounting for other projects, actions and commitments, if this target is met, coverage in the country will increase by **78,580 km²** [most of the addition covered by UN Ocean Action].



APPROVED GEF-5, GEF-6 PROTECTED AREA PROJECTS

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

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

GEF ID	PA increase?	Area to be added (km ²)	Type of new protected area	Qualitative elements potentially benefiting (based on keyword search of PIFs)
5122	Yes	1,000	Terrestrial	All except Equitably managed
9846	Yes	2,000	Terrestrial	Ecologically representative; Effectively managed; Equitably managed; Integration



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 post-2020:

#OceanAction16178: Protecting 1 million sq kms through the \$15 million WCS Marine Protected Area Fund, by Wildlife Conservation Society (Non-governmental organization (NGO)).

- Area to be added: **160,978 km²**.
- Notes on area added: 160,978 km² to be selected as MPAs by 2022, including establishment of ~5,000 km² MPA in the Kavachi Seascape (see country profile from WCS MPA project - <https://mpafund.wcs.org/>).
- Progress report: Yes (2019), status=On Track.
- Further details available at: <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16178>.

Other Ocean Actions

Other Ocean Actions submitted as voluntary commitments for SDG 14.5, will also create benefits for the qualifying elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11:

#OceanAction19754: Integrated National Oceans Policy and Marine Spatial Plan for Solomon Islands, by Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Solomon Islands (Government).

- Types of actions involved: integrated ocean governance; draft marine spatial plan.
- Target 11 element addressed: Integration.
- Progress report: Yes (Oct 2018); Overall status = On track.
- Further details available at: <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19754>

#OceanAction20324: Support community based resource management in Solomon Islands, by Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (Government).

- Types of actions involved: Integrated management; Community Based Resource Management; Implementation of the Protected Areas Work Program.
- Target 11 element addressed: Integration; Equitably managed.
- Progress report: No progress report submitted (as of May 2021).
- Further details available at: <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=20324>



ANNEX I

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON POTENTIAL OECS

Information from Collation of OECM Case Studies (see IUCN, 2017)

Zaira Community, Vangunu Island, Western Province:

- **Overview:** Zaira Resource Management Area (ZRMA) is a ridge to reef community-governed conservation area in a biodiversity hotspot.
- **Boundaries & Geographical Space:** 2850 ha terrestrial and 2300 ha marine; boundaries and important cultural sites are documented in the community management plan.
- **Governance Type:** Indigenous Peoples / local communities; ZRMA has been managed over successive generations using a customary management system (hope); plan is discussed during annual meetings, with a 5- year timeline for review; governance of the ZRMA explicitly promotes conservation outcomes.
- **Permanence:** customary ownership of land and resources is recognized in the constitution of Solomon Islands; ZRMA management planning is a long-term investment, with measures in place year-round.
- **Management Objectives:** health of natural landscapes, ecosystems and habitats, important plants and animals; sustainable use of natural resources; protect critically endangered, endemic or rare, threatened species; establish an education learning; maintain traditional resource management regime and local leadership that recognizes their cultural values, protecting historical heritages.
- **Conservation Effectiveness:** the governance of ZRMA has been effective in deterring damaging activities; monitoring and evaluation is detailed in the management plan, and includes: annual monitoring of Catch per Unit Effort and availability of valued plant species; biannual coral reef species monitoring; seasonal monitoring of leatherback turtles; annual monitoring valued plant species.



ANNEX II

FULL LIST OF TERRESTRIAL ECOREGIONS

Ecoregion Name	Area (km²)	% of Global Ecoregion in Country	% of Country in Ecoregion	Area Protected (km²)	% Protected in Country
Solomon Islands rain forests	26,370.9	73.9	91.8	481.3	1.8
Vanuatu rain forests	777.4	5.9	2.7	0.0	0.0



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