



# Protected Planet Report 2020

## Why in News

The report, titled **Protected Planet Report 2020**, underlined the progress the world has made toward the **ambitious goals agreed by countries in 2010** at the [United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity](#).

## Convention on Biological Diversity

- It is a **legally binding treaty** to conserve biodiversity that has been in force since 1993.
- Nearly all countries including India have ratified it (notably, the **US has signed but not ratified**).
- The **CBD Secretariat is based in Montreal**, Canada and it **operates under the [United Nations Environment Programme](#)**.
- A supplementary agreement to the Convention known as the **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** (adopted at COP5, 2000) seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology.
- The **Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS)** was adopted in Nagoya, Japan at COP10.
- The COP-10 **also adopted a ten-year framework for action** by all countries to save biodiversity.
  - Officially known as **“Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020”**, it provided a set of 20 targets, collectively known as the **Aichi Targets for biodiversity**.

## Key Points

- **About the Protected Planet Reports:**
  - The reports are released by the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\) World Conservation Monitoring Centre \(UNEP-WCMC\)](#) and the [International Union for the Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) with support from the **National Geographic Society**, a global non-profit.
  - These are **biennial landmark publications** that assess the state of protected and conserved areas around the world.
  - The report is the first in the series to include data on **Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM)** in addition to protected areas.
    - **OECM** are a conservation designation for areas that are achieving the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside of protected areas.
  - The 2020 edition provides the final report on the status of **Aichi Biodiversity Target 11**, and looks to the future as the world prepares to adopt a new post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
    - [Aichi Biodiversity Target 11](#) aimed to conserve 17% of land and inland water

ecosystems and 10% of its coastal waters and oceans by 2020.

▪ **Findings of the Report:**

◦ **Increase in Protected Area:**

- As many as 82% of countries and territories have increased their share of protected area and coverage of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) since 2010.
- Protected areas covering almost 21 million km<sup>2</sup> have been added to the global network.

◦ **Increase in OECMs:**

- Since OECMs were first recorded in 2019, these areas have added a further 1.6 million km<sup>2</sup> to the global network.
- Despite being limited to only five countries and territories, the available data on OECMs show that **they make a significant contribution to coverage and connectivity.**
- Of the area now covered by protected areas and OECMs, 42% was added in the past decade.

◦ **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs):**

- KBAs are **sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity**, in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.
- On an average, **62.6% of KBA either fully or partially overlap** with protected areas and OECMs.
- The average percentage of each KBA within protected areas and OECMs is 43.2% for terrestrial; 42.2% for inland water and 44.2% for marine (within national waters).
- There was **an increase of 5 percentage points** or less in each case since 2010, the greatest growth in marine and coastal areas.

▪ **Challenges:**

- **Management effectiveness assessments** have been conducted across only 18.29% of the area covered by protected areas, and it is likely that many do not meet the standards for full effectiveness.
- **Integrating protected areas and OECMs** across landscapes and seascapes, and in development sectors, remains a crucial challenge for ensuring the persistence of biodiversity.
  - Measurable targets for integrated land-use and marine spatial planning are needed to facilitate progress.
- **Governance** is a key contributor to effective conservation. Both protected areas and OECMs can have a variety of governance regimes: government, private, governance by indigenous peoples and local communities, or any combination of these.
  - **Data are still poor on governance** diversity and quality for protected areas and OECMs.
  - New guidance and better reporting can provide new opportunities to better recognise and support the conservation efforts of diverse groups, including indigenous peoples, local communities, and private actors.

**Protected Area in India**

- Protected areas are **regions or zones of land or sea which are given certain levels of protection for conservation of biodiversity** and socio-environmental values. In these areas, **human intervention** and exploitation of resources is **limited**.
- India has a **network of 903 Protected Areas covering about 5%** of its total geographic area.
- India has the following kinds of **protected areas**, in the sense of the word designated by **IUCN**:
  - National Parks, Wildlife sanctuaries, Biosphere reserves, Reserved and protected forests,

Conservation reserves and community reserves, Private protected areas.

## Way Forward

- Greater **application of the global standard** for effectiveness, the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, will help to address weaknesses.
- **Increasing recognition of the role** that protected and conserved areas can play as nature-based solutions to climate change and other global challenges, and their contribution to realising multiple **Sustainable Development Goals**, provides a strong justification for investing in more effective national and global networks.
- The further **identification and recognition of OECMs** is likely to contribute significantly to improved performance on all criteria, including connectivity, ecological representation, governance diversity and coverage (including areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem services).
- A **global network of effective and equitable protected and conserved areas** will play a vital role in safeguarding the health of people and the planet for generations to come.

**Source: DTE**

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