



© Gregoire Dubois, Lake Assal, Djibouti

## 8.4 Djibouti

### Protected and conserved areas in Djibouti<sup>43</sup>

Djibouti has seven protected areas covering 344 km<sup>2</sup> of land and 12 km<sup>2</sup> of the ocean (UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019e)).

In 2015, it was proposed to extend the network of MPAs to the maritime and coastal sector. The objective is to form a large management unit extending the MPA area to a total cover of 56,500 ha of seascape. In addition, in 2019, several terrestrial sites were identified as candidates for protection.

In Djibouti, terrestrial and marine protected areas are not closed areas. Traditional farming and fishing activities, as well as ecotourism, are authorized but regulated and controlled with a view to preserving biodiversity. However, restrictions like the felling or pruning of trees, the picking or uprooting of plants is regulated and controlled in terrestrial protected areas.

### Transboundary protected and conserved areas

Djibouti includes part of the Lower Awash-Lake Abbé Landscape transboundary conservation area.

### Policy context

A comprehensive report on legislation and policy related to protected area management, governance, and equity was undertaken by the BIOPAMA programme. It identified 21 relevant laws and policies in Djibouti (Tessema, 2019).

### Key species<sup>44</sup>

These reports do not provide an overall summary of species in the country, but take note of key ecosystems, including forests and mangroves. Attention is paid in particular to the Day Forest and the Goda Massif, home to a variety of plants, animals and birds, including the endemic critically endangered Djibouti francolin (*Francolinus ochropectus*).

### Pressures and threats<sup>45</sup>

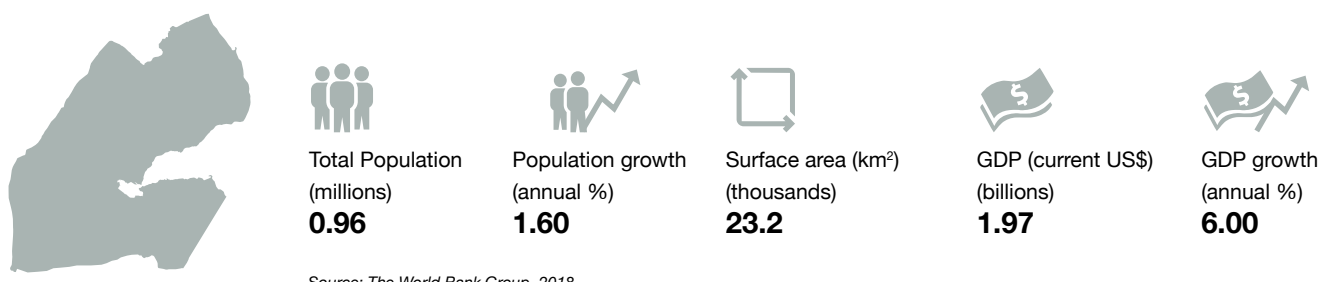
Djibouti's biodiversity faces major threats. The country's scarce freshwater resources are threatened by salinisation, infrastructure deterioration, pollution and degradation of key watersheds, through deforestation for firewood and charcoal. Djibouti is also suffering from a severe invasion of the *Prosopis*, or mesquite, which degrades rangelands. Marine environments are also impacted by pollution, including from the storage of petroleum products. Illegal and unregulated fishing results in overharvesting of certain species. Indirect pressures include drought, urban growth, population increase, pressure from refugee populations in neighbouring countries, and persistent rural poverty and food insecurity.

43 The section draws on information contained in Djibouti's Sixth National Report to the CBD (République de Djibouti, 2019) and Second NBSAP (République de Djibouti, 2017).

44 The section draws on information contained in Djibouti's Fifth National Report to the CBD and Second NBSAP (République de Djibouti, 2014; 2017).

45 Ibid.

**Figure 8.7 Djibouti Summary**



**Area Protected:**

**7 protected areas**



covering **344 km<sup>2</sup>** of land



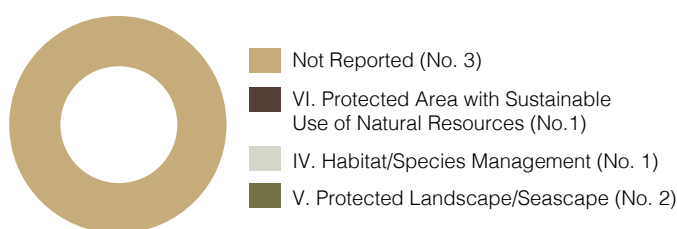
covering **12 km<sup>2</sup>** of ocean

Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, 2019e



**key ecosystems include: forests and mangroves**

**Protected and conserved areas in Djibouti in IUCN Management Categories**



Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019e).

**Coverage of protected areas in Djibouti**

Type of protected area	Area protected or conserved*	Area protected or conserved**
Terrestrial and inland water	1.57%	1.34%
Coastal and marine	0.17%	0.46%

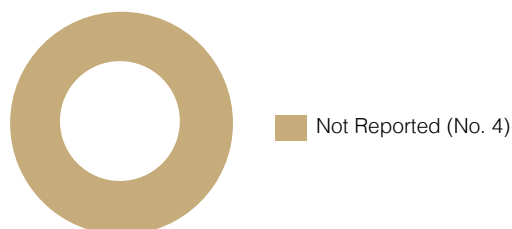
\* WDPA dataset      \*\* From National Report on Biodiversity  
Source: République de Djibouti (2014); UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019e).

**National designations of protected and conserved areas in Djibouti**

National designation	Number	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )
Terrestrial protected area	2	323
Marine protected landscape	3	514
Area protected for habitat and species	1	26

Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019e).

**Protected and conserved areas in Djibouti in IUCN Governance Types**



Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019e).

**Protected and conserved areas designated as global sites of importance in Djibouti**

Global designation	No. of sites
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1

Source: Ramsar (2019); UNESCO (2019a, 2019b).

**Priority areas for conservation**



**7 sites**

Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas

Source: BirdLife International (2019c).

Figure 8.8 Djibouti protected areas

