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8.17 Somalia

Protected and conserved areas in Somalia⁸²

Somalia has 21 protected areas. These are point records, with no reported area, so it is not possible to provide an area for the coverage of these protected areas (UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, 2019r). There has been no effective biodiversity resource management and formal protection for protected areas since the collapse of the central government in 1991. The most serious concern is the lack of effective legislation concerning the management of the protected areas and the absence of a functioning conservation infrastructure. Eleven wildlife areas have been declared since the 1970s, but only two were thought to be functional. In practice, there has been no formal protection offered to any of these sites since the early 1990s.

In the marine environment, four marine protected areas have been proposed: the Saad ad- Dim Island and Aibat in Western Somaliland close to Zeila, a historic town; Maydh Island in Puntland with the neighbouring Daalo forest on the mainland; and Gara'ad on the Indian Ocean coast of Puntland. The latter was declared as an MPA in 2005 by the local fishers' association GARFISH. Saad-ad-din Island and Maydh Island are important sea bird breeding areas. The coral reefs at Saad ad-Din Island represent the most diverse and well-formed reefs on the Gulf of Aden coast.

Transboundary protected and conserved areas

Somalia includes part of the Tana-Kipini-Laga Badana Bushbush Land and Seascape transboundary conservation areas.

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 10 relevant laws and policies in Somalia (Tessema, 2019).

Key species⁸³

Endemism in the Horn of Africa, of which Somalia is part, is high. Studies of species diversity in Somalia have been infrequent, but it is believed to be home to more than 175 mammal species and 671 bird species. Over 3,000 plant species have been recorded, 836 of which are believed to be endemic to the country. Somalia has unique reptiles of 230 species, 80% of them are endemic to Somalia with 29 species of amphibians. There are additional species from Somaliland that have not been recorded.

Knowledge of marine and coastal species is low, although these underpin many economic activities on the coast.

82 The section draws on information contained in Somalia's Sixth National Report to the CBD (The Somali Republic, 2019).

83 The section draws on information contained in Somalia's Fifth National Report to the CBD (Federal Republic of Somalia, 2014).

Figure 8.33 Somalia Summary



Total Population (millions)
15.01



Population growth (annual %)
2.80



Surface area (km²) (thousands)
637.70



GDP (current US\$) (billions)
4.72



GDP growth (annual %)
-1.50

Source: The World Bank Group, 2018.

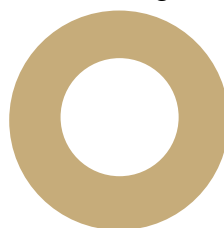
Area Protected:



21 protected areas

Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, 2019r

Protected and conserved areas in Somalia in IUCN Management Categories



Not Reported (No. 21)

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



3 000 plant species



175 mammal species



671 bird species



29 amphibian species

Coverage of protected areas in Somalia

Type of protected area	Area protected or conserved*	Area protected or conserved**
Terrestrial and inland water	0.00%	0.80%
Coastal and marine	0.00%	Not found

* WDPA dataset

** From National Report on Biodiversity

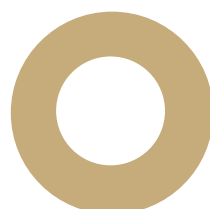
Source: Federal Republic of Somalia (2014); UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019r).

National designations of protected and conserved areas in Somalia

National designation	Number
National Park	12
Wildlife Reserve	9

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

Protected and conserved areas in Somalia in IUCN Governance Types



Not Reported

Governance by Government (No. 21)

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

Priority areas for conservation



2 sites

Alliance for Zero Extinction sites



22 sites

Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas

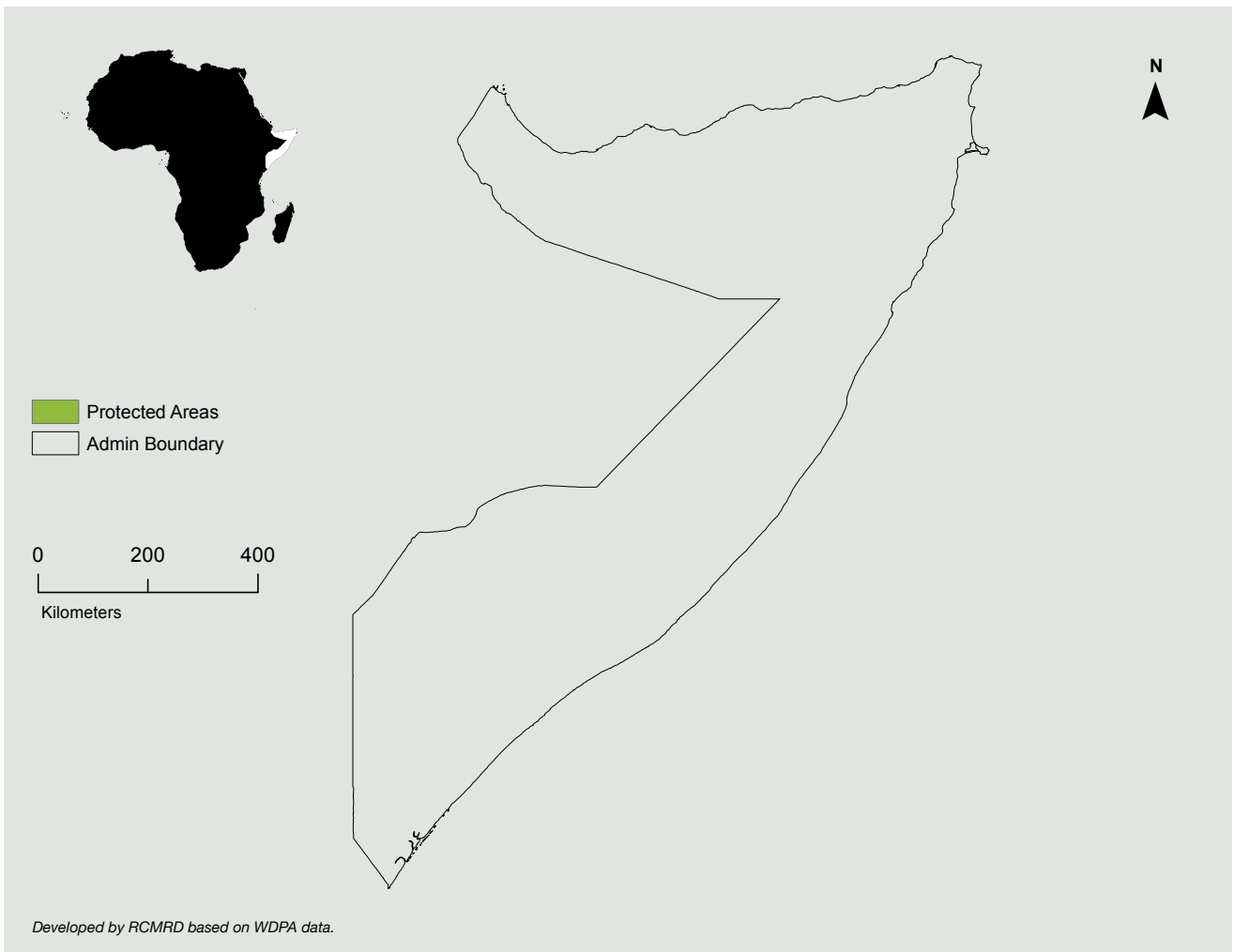


2 sites

Key Biodiversity Areas

Source: AZE Secretariat (2019); BirdLife International (2019b, 2019c).

Figure 8.34 Somalia protected areas



Pressures and threats⁸⁴

The critical threats to biodiversity in Somalia include: habitat loss and degradation, deforestation, poverty, pollution, political pressure, climate change, woodland conversion to agricultural and urbanisation, unsustainable harvesting and invasive alien species. These are underpinned by indirect drivers, such as poverty, insecurity and civil conflict and lack of institutional capacity for conservation.

⁸⁴ The section draws on information contained in Somalia's Fifth National Report to the CBD (Federal Republic of Somalia, 2014).