



## Biodiversity in Africa

### Assessing Values and Threats in Protected Areas

#### Biodiversity loss

World governments have been set the task, by 2010, “to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional, and national level” as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Uneven distributions of species diversity and threats to their continuing survival, as well as limited financial resources mean that in order to achieve this goal, conservation priorities must be set.

The JRC develops decision-making tools for characterising the value of biodiversity (species richness and ecosystem irreplaceability) and threats to over 700 African protected areas to inform users about the status of, and pressures on African Protected Areas.

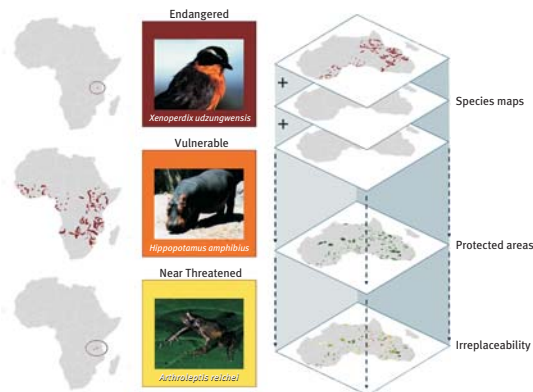
#### Program of the World Conservation Union

The IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas regards the network of protected areas within Africa as the principle safeguard for Africa’s rich biodiversity. These protected areas are seen as key resources in halting biodiversity loss, and as indicators of its success.



Categories of Protected Area Management

- Ia Science
- Ib Wilderness protection
- II Ecosystem protection & recreation
- III Conservation of specific natural features
- IV Conservation through management intervention
- Conservation on wetlands of national importance
- UNESCO World Heritage convention
- Other national parks



#### Assessment

This is the first consistent, continent-wide assessment of protected areas in Africa, based on:

1. Their value for conservation.
2. Anthropogenic pressures.

It is based on the most up-to-date, scientifically accepted, and publicly available information on species, environment and socio-economics.



#### Contact

European Commission • JRC  
Global Environment Monitoring Unit  
Tel. +39 0332 78 97 06  
Fax +39 0332 78 99 60  
E-mail: acpobservatory-environment@jrc.it





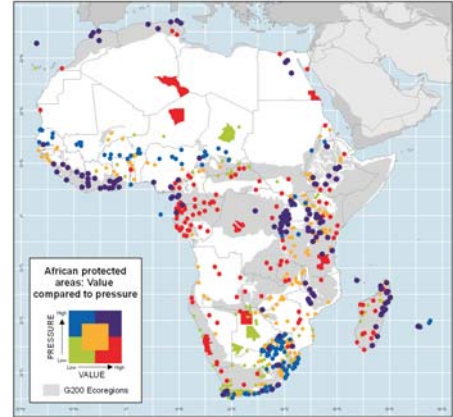
## Biodiversity in Africa

### Information compared to other conservation assessments

#### At the continental scale

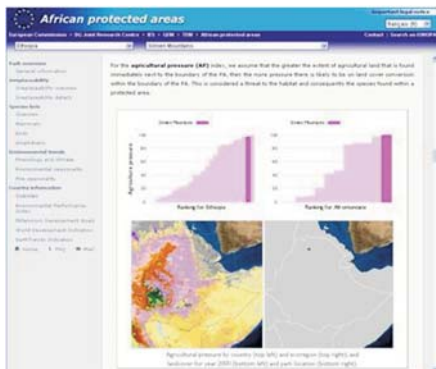
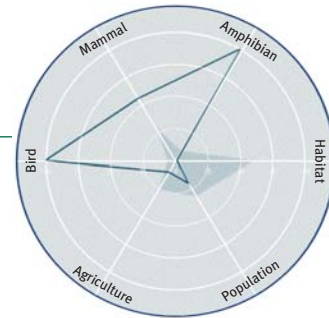
Each protected area is classified using indicators of biodiversity value, and anthropogenic pressures. Protected areas with high value and pressure are shown in purple in the map on the right. These are therefore critical for future conservation initiatives.

“Critical” protected areas are in good general agreement with other internationally recognised conservation assessments. 75% of these protected areas overlap with Conservation International’s Biodiversity Hotspots whilst 71% are in the World Wildlife Fund global 200 ecoregions (right).



#### At the national or ecosystem scale

The large circular graph shows each indicator for Udzungwa Mountains National Park in Tanzania (dark blue line) and the average scores for Tanzania (grey background). This information is combined with species lists, environmental trends, maps and national indicators as an online resource for each protected area and each country in Africa.



#### Website reports

Website reports contain information on 741 protected areas, across 50 countries, and includes information on 280 mammals, 381 bird species and 930 amphibian species, and a wide range of climatic, environmental and socioeconomic information.

[www-tem.jrc.it/pa/index.html](http://www-tem.jrc.it/pa/index.html)



#### Contact