

Progress Report on Achieving Aichi Target 11 in RedParques Member Countries

Results and Outlooks Ahead of 2020



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Executive Summary

Background

The Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on National Parks, other Protected Areas and Wildlife (Redparques) was created 35 years ago by countries in the region, with the support of the FAO. It is a network of public and private institutions and specialists from 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries working in protected areas and priority conservation areas. Redparques has contributed significantly to the development and technical capacity of the national institutions responsible for the management of national parks and other protected areas in their respective countries. This contribution is reflected in the increase in technical cooperation among the countries in the region.

The Redparques member countries, with the support of the IAPA Project and Pronatura México A.C., Mexico's National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (Conanp) and GIZ, held a meeting on July 25 and 26, in Mexico City, in order to:

- I. Review the progress on achieving Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), both nationally and regionally;
- II. Review and update the priority national actions established by the countries in 2015 in road maps to achieve Aichi Target 11 by 2020; and
- III. Discuss with countries regional priorities for the Post-2020 Agenda.

The results showed significant progress made in strengthening and managing the region's protected areas, mainly in terms of coverage, specifically in regard to land, and management effectiveness. Progress has been reported for aspects such as connectivity and governance. However, countries must redouble their efforts to ensure that progress is aligned with the region's conservation needs. Another important area for countries in the region to focus on consistently relates to other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), as well as indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) and Private Protected Areas (PPAs), acknowledging their contribution toward achieving the goal, which requires a process of identification and quantification.



IAPA: Integration of Amazon Protected Areas



This report is an essential input for the construction of a regional vision—through Redparques—that provides the bases for a joint progress towards prioritizing and setting new agenda items for negotiation Post-2020 (Pronatura, 2017).

The methodology used to draw up the report on progress made toward achieving the objectives of Target 11 for the Redparques member countries (2011-2018) was based on:

The tool developed by the WWF working team for the Observatory of Protected Areas and Climate Change, based on the methodology used by the CBD and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Global Biodiversity Outlook 4 (SCBD, 2104). The information was validated by the Redparques member countries.

The updated priority national actions described by the member countries in road maps and analyzed by Pronatura México A.C. in the framework of the Plan of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity to achieve Target 11 by 2020. The information was validated by the Redparques member countries.

Main results of the overall progress of Redparques in achieving the objectives of Aichi Target 11.

The results presented in this report reflect the state of play of the 19 Redparques member countries, as well as the countries that form the Guiana Shield (Guyana and Suriname) and the French territory (French Guiana or Guyane), which corresponds to 45.6% of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

With the official information submitted by the countries, and following the analysis presented for each one of the aspects in the previous sections, Table 1 shows Redparques' trend in implementation. It is important to note that OECMs were not considered in this process, since work in this area remains at an early stage.


Table 1. Trend in implementing different aspects of Target 11 for Redparques

Aspect	Trend in implementation	
	Terrestrial	Marine
Coverage		
Management effectiveness		
Governance		
Ecological representation		
Connectivity		



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Aspect	Trend in implementation
Key Biodiversity Áreas	

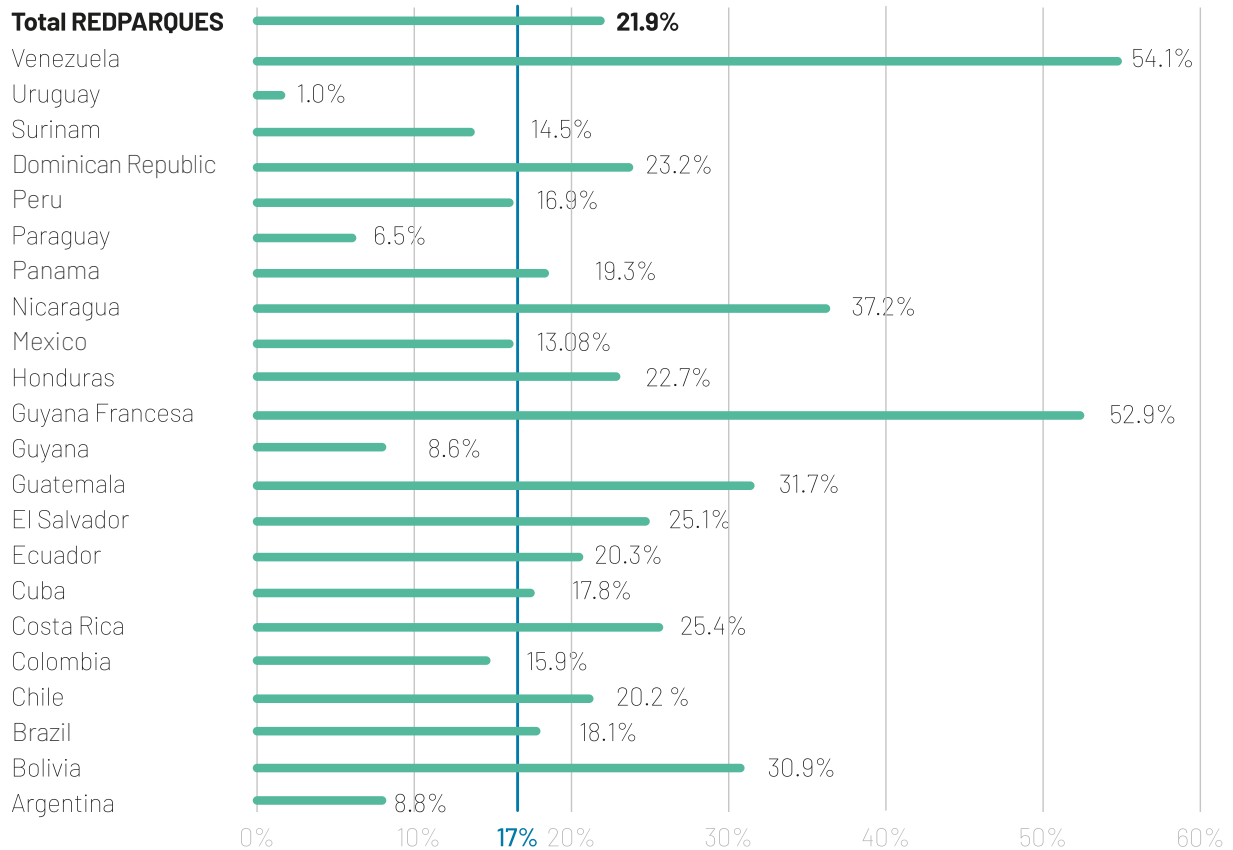
The following section details the reported progress for each aspect of the Aichi Target 11 for the Redparques member countries, with “Coverage” being the only quantitative aspect, and all the others being qualitative.

Main results of Redparques, by element of Aichi Target 11

1. Coverage

Target: “By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas [...] are conserved through [...] systems of protected areas [...] (Target 11 Aichi of CBD).
 Coverage of protected areas is the only element with quantitative indicators.
 Indicator protected areas created as of 2018

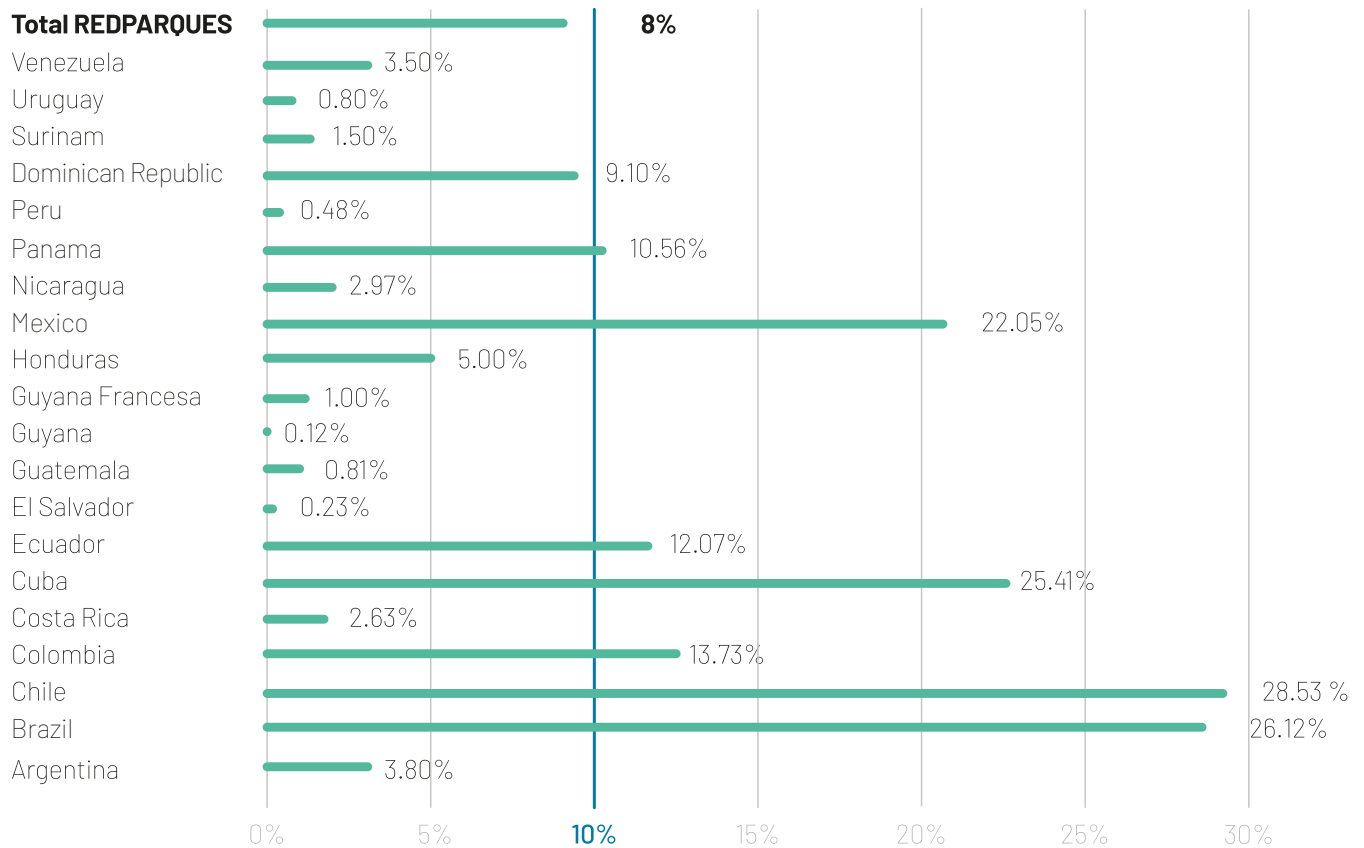
Figure 1. Current coverage of land Aps – Conservation target 17%



Source: Compiled by author

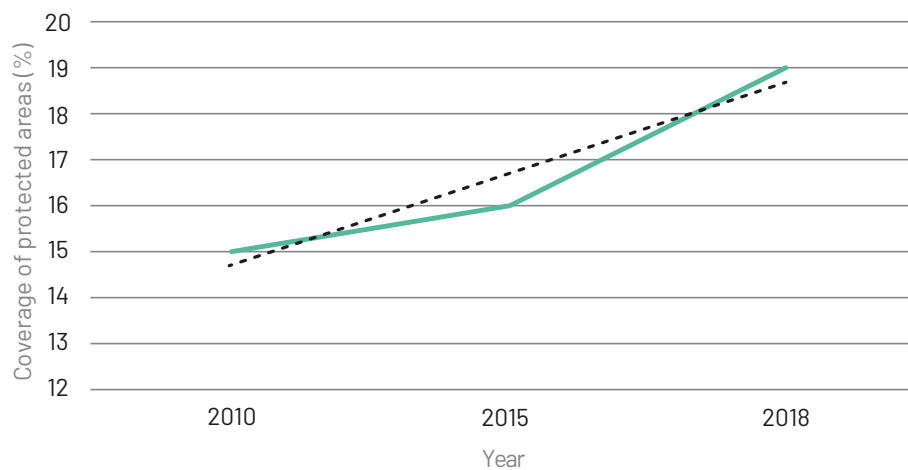
* No information available about the percentage of the area reported by the countries regarding the freshwater conservation areas.

Figure 2. Coverage of protected marine and coastal areas, reported by RedParques member countries



Source: compiled by author

Figure 3. Trend in the coverage of protected areas in RedParques member countries



Source: Compiled by author

- Data:**
- Regionally, the RedParques member countries, the Guyanas and the French territory, have achieved the coverage of 22% (3.243.874,62 km²) for land and inland water areas, and they have almost achieved the objective of covering 8.5% (1.136.234,53 km²) of coastal and marine areas.
 - The past two years, from 2016 to 2018, have been characterized by large areas of newly included protected marine areas in the region. Notably, countries such as Mexico, Ecuador, Chile, and Brazil have exceeded the established target by a factor of two. However, on a national level, we can see that almost 13 countries are considerably far off achieving their goal, and must therefore redouble their efforts.

2. Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

Sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. The sites can qualify as a global KBA by achieving at least one of the designated criteria, grouped into five categories (IUCN 2015)

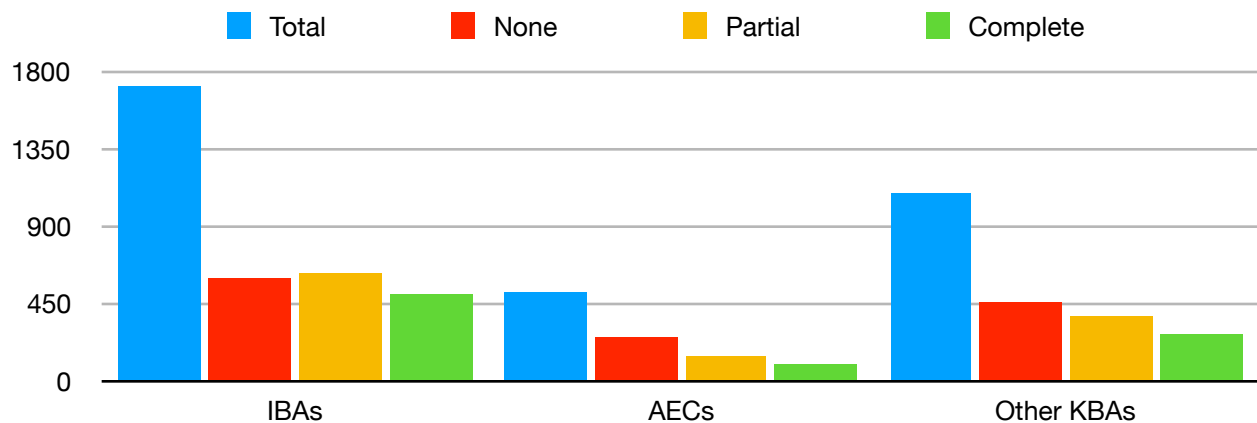
- I. threatened biodiversity;
- II. geographically restricted biodiversity;
- III. ecological integrity;
- IV. biological processes; and
- V. irreplaceability.

The coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) includes:

- Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) identified by Birdlife
- Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites that contain more than 95% of the global population of the global population of highly threatened species
- The freshwater KBAs of the IUCN, as well as the KBAs identified through the process of drawing up of profiles of the hotspot of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (SBSTTA 22)

Indicator: coverage of protected Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

Figure 4. Key Biodiversity Areas in Redparques member countries



Level of Protection	Total	Complete	Partial	None
IBAs	1,724	503	631	595
AECs	529	110	153	266
Other KBAs	1,101	268	391	457

Source: Compiled by author

- Data:**
- Whether or not KBAs enjoy legal conservation status, given the importance of these areas in maintaining the key processes and elements of biodiversity, countries are urged to protect these areas from harmful activities degrading them.
 - The Redparques member countries record 1724 sites identified as IBAs, 503 of which are completely protected.
 - Redparques member countries report 512 AEC sites, 110 of which are completely protected.
 - Redoubled efforts are needed to 1) furnish AECs, IBAs and other KBAs with legal conservation status and 2) identify and map important areas of ecosystem services.

3. Management effectiveness

The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) defines management effectiveness as the assessment of how well protected areas are being managed, primarily the extent to which management is protecting values and achieving goals and objectives (Hockings et al., 2006).

The goal for the region is reported as having been partially achieved (70.9%).

4. Governance and equity

The IUCN defines governance in protected areas as “The interactions among structures, processes and traditions that determine how power and responsibilities are exercised, how decisions are taken and how citizens or other stakeholders have their say” (Borrini-Feyerabend, et al., 2014).

Governance is related to those with the power, authority and responsibility and who is, or should be, responsible. Governance agreements must be adapted to the specific aspects of [their] context and effective in delivering enduring results for conservation, benefitting means of life and respecting rights (IUCN).

No unique indicator available.

Governance includes criteria of: diversity, quality, effectiveness and equity.

Insufficient progress made to ensure achieving this goal in the region.

5. Ecological representation

Aichi Target 11 seeks ecologically representative protected area systems.

Indicator: coverage of different eco-regions within the networks of protected areas

- Data:**
- For the territory that comprises the 19 Redparques member countries, 179 regions have been identified, 83 of which are protected with at least 17% of their territory.
 - Dominican Republic: the only country that has reported having achieved the total representativeness of its ecosystems within the National System of Protected Areas.
 - Nine countries are on course to achieving the goal (Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, and Uruguay).

6. Connectivity and integrating landscapes

Aichi Target 11 also aims to create well-connected protected areas, hence connectivity is one of the aspects to be analyzed both domestically and internationally, taking into account that biodiversity conservation transcends political divisions.

Well-connected protected areas are important to maintain ecological and evolutive processes, especially given the impacts of climate change and increasingly fragmented natural landscapes (SBSTTA 22).

Integrating landscapes refers to the process of ensuring that the design and management of protected areas, corridors and the surrounding matrix, promotes a connected, functional ecological network (SBSTTA 22).

- Data:**
- Connectivity continues to be a challenge for countries in the region. Despite initiatives oriented toward maintaining connectivity in the specific landscapes, no clear measurements show the effectiveness of biological conservation and ecosystem services.
 - National Protected Areas Systems must ensure the effective management of corridors or mosaics of protected areas through proper legal structures, in order to ensure the long-term continuation of these conservation strategies.
 - It is important to prioritize and implement measures to reduce habitat fragmentation and increase connectivity (OECMs, ICCAs, conservation corridors, etc.).
 - In terms of connectivity initiatives beyond their borders, 12 countries report joint initiatives with neighboring countries; in the region, 16 cross-border connectivity initiatives have been recorded.
 - Measuring marine connectivity continues to be a challenge.

7. Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)

A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and, where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic, and other locally relevant values. (SBSSTA 22)

- Data:**
- Redparques member countries report progress in recognizing RAMSAR sites (176 – 1,692,736,58 km²), ICCAs (9 – 7,992,12 km²), Natural heritage (51 – 254,919,86 km²) and Biosphere Reserves (104 – 514,248,84 km²).
 - OECMs can contribute other aspects of Target 11 (land and marine coverage, representativeness, connectivity, management effectiveness and governance), to the Sustainable Development Objectives and countries’ other national goals.
 - Globally, and specifically for the Redparques member countries, measuring this aspect still requires processes that make it possible to define, on a national basis, the criteria for identifying OECMs and subsequently generating the mechanisms that lead to its legal recognition, which will permit its sustainability over time.
 - To define these OECMs, it was essential to consider that the areas accounted for are not superimposed over the protected areas. However, this is an action which countries must check in order to avoid double counting coverage figures.
 - Mapping OECMs, including ICCAs and PPAs, will make it possible to detect possible superimpositions with other areas, and will suggest a more precise estimate of the global coverage of protected areas.

Additionally, countries are working on identifying other types of OECM (Table 2).

Table 2. Possible OECMs identified in Redparques member countries

Country	Possible identified OECMs
Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal reserves • Permanent preservation areas • Military zones • Fishing exclusion zones
Chile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological corridors
Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of complementary conservation strategies: • Environmental conservation areas • International recognitions • Protected municipal zones • Strategic ecosystems • Ethnic conservation areas • Community categories.

Country	Possible identified OEMCs
Costa Rica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible fishing zones
Ecuador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socio Bosque program GAD subsystems: private and community
El Salvador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Natural Areas
Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas with restoration potential
Honduras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological corridors Private natural reserves Important wildlife sites Forestry protection zones
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary Conservation Areas Certified forests Fishing refuges and Wildlife Conservation Management Units
Panama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private reserves Environmental easements
Peru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private conservation areas
Dominican Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private protected areas Biological corridors

Source: Official information contributed by Redparques member countries focus points

Challenges and obstacles identified on the roadmaps

- Strengthen the protected natural area systems, as well as their financial sustainability.
- Improve articulation in different areas of the (local, regional, and national) management and productive sectors.
- Integration and alignment with international goals.
- Lack of implementation due to lack of technical or financial resources.
- Align multilateral and bilateral initiatives such as GEF, AFD, UNDP, KFW, GIZ projects, etc., with the progress toward achieving Target 11 and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Objectives (SDOs) and other commitments.
- Implement regional conservation systems.
- Implement proposed actions for Target 12.
- Evaluate and manage other conservation types.
- Limited personnel and staff turnover that can slow down processes.

- Difference in capacities between member countries.
- Some national goals achieved, but international targets still not reached.

Countries' most-requested tools

- Funding, budgeting, and financial sustainability for protected area systems.
- Regulatory and fiscal issues; implementation of regulations and standards; responding to threats from productive-sector interests and in border zones.
- Inclusion of climate change criteria and ecosystem services in protected areas.
- Improvement of technical monitoring and supervision capabilities, assessment, planning, and management protected areas and OECMs.
- Geographical information systems and the development of digital mapping platforms.
- Specific training in risk-assessment models and extinction of species on a national scale.
- Implementation of conservation plans and programs in regions under the most pressure.

Positive experiences identified

- Chile: Significant expansion of land and marine coverage.
- Cuba: Control and eradication of invasive species.
- Guyana: Advantages over a Law of Protected Areas.
- Mexico: Connectivity, effective management, and integration of climate change criteria.
- Colombia: an available natural area registry (RUNAP). Also an accessible record and platform of ecosystems and environmental areas offering additional conservation strategies at a national level.
- Some countries have exceeded their targets for 2020 and have set new goals.

Regional perspective on negotiations of Post-2020 targets

The Redparques Annual Board of Management meeting in Cozumel (2017) and the workshop held in Mexico City (2018) produced various findings, notably the following regional perspective to be considered when negotiating the new post-2020 targets:

- It is essential to work on connecting the Aichi Target 11 with other goals and aligning with the SDOs in order to show the value and benefits of the protected areas to national wellbeing and finances. It is important to approach economy and finance ministers to show that protected areas represent an asset, a source of employment, and institutionality.
- Funding is a core issue to manage protected areas, as well as the importance of factoring in its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Tourism in protected areas is a key issue to be addressed.

- Complying with land coverage does not guarantee the conservation of freshwaters; there is a lack of a complete, integral analysis of migratory routes, threatened species in protected areas, and an integral conservation of habitats.
- Greater government commitment to conservation is required in cross-border areas, and more consideration must be given to effects on coastal-marine areas and species' migration in relation to climate change.
- A common denominator in the region is the presence of indigenous communities within protected areas, increasing the complexity of management. This is an aspect not clearly indicated in the Aichi 11 Target.
- Ecological connectivity, especially in the marine areas, is one of the most difficulty aspects to measure. Therefore, work is needed to make this aspect visible.
- National adjustments will be required following the recognition of OECM definitions. Strengthening new OECM schemes can help develop local communities.
- It is important to maintain an explicit percentage of the target in order to orient efforts and include a voluntary aspect in accordance with countries' capacities.
- It is important to build up capacities in terms of production chains and their connection with the pressure on protected areas.
- More work is required on communications and empowering consumers to take decisions that do not have an adverse effect on ecosystems.
- It is time to move from theory to practice.
- International water issues have fallen through gaps, and need to be addressed.

Conclusions and recommendations

- Clearly at a regional level, in terms of Redparques member countries, the Guyanas and the French Territory, have complied with the land coverage aspect (22%) and are close to achieving the marine goal (8%). There has also been a positive trend, between 2010 and 2018, toward creating and expanding protected areas.
- In terms of other conservation strategies, several IBAs have been identified in the Redparques member countries, yet only 29% are completely protected. A similar situation can be found with the AECs, with almost 20% completely protected. For these reasons, countries must redouble their efforts to increase the percentage of complete protection of these areas that have been identified as key in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- One of the challenges to guarantee protected area systems with an effective management is to incorporate climate change variables as part of the assessment tools. Although several countries have made progress toward achieving this target, no progress has been reported for 13 of the 21 countries and land being assessed.

- In terms of connectivity processes, it is important to make progress developing clear and replicable methodologies that enable quantitative indicators to measure the success of these processes, and even more importantly there is a need to recognize that these are long-term actions. There is still a need to orient efforts and tools to measure marine connectivity.
- In general, the conclusion is that, in regard to Redparques region, a positive trend can be found in the Target's aspects, with governance and OECMs being the areas requiring greater commitment from the member countries.
- Currently there are no internationally recognized OECM since this figure has not yet been formally adopted by the CBD. However, it is important to highlight the regional progress made in regard to these instruments. Once this definition has been formally defined, it could significantly improve the implementation of the Aichi 11 Target, as well as contribute other benefits to the development of local communities in terms of governance. For example, the recognition and mapping of the Indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs), the Private Protected Areas (PPAs), could improve the status of various aspects of the Target, such as: representativeness, important areas for biodiversity and ecosystem services and connectivity. This is important to consider in a region with many indigenous communities.
- The challenge lies in implementing priority national measures to comply with the qualitative aspects of the 2020 target. In this sense, it is a priority to strengthen the financial sustainability of protected area systems in their different levels of management.
- It is necessary to map out and align countries' actions with multilateral projects such as the repositioning of GEF 5, 6 and 7, AFD, KfW, among others, as well as bilateral projects identified in roadmaps in order to properly gauge the implementation of the Aichi Target 11.
- Regional challenges identified include: integrating and aligning national and international targets, improving technical and financial capacities for the implementation of targets, and improving the articulation in the different management areas and productive sectors.
- It is essential to join up initiatives with other targets, international agreements and SDOs in order to demonstrate the value and benefits of the protected areas in terms of national wellbeing and finances, as in the case of the Target 12. Funding is essential for the management of protected areas, and it is also vital to account for its contribution to countries' GDP.
- Finally, it is important to highlight indigenous communities' important role within Latin America's protected areas, since management is often more complex and different compared to other regions and this must be taken into account during the negotiations for the new, post-2020 Targets.
- Spaces such as REDPARQUES make it possible to position these discussions on a regional level.

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- UNEP/ CBD/ COP/13/INF/17
- UNEP/CBD/ SBSTTA/20/INF/43- UNEP/CBD/SBI/INF/41
- Road maps (Mexico City 2018 workshop)
- Road maps (Curitiba 2015 workshop)
- Available documents on gaps and omissions (Curitiba 2015 workshop)
- Interviews with Redparques members
- Minutes from Redparques Mexico City 2018 workshop
- Minutes from Redparques Cozumel, Mexico, 2017 workshop

