

Environmental protection indicator ENV (project regions)

Klar, C. / National Park Berchtesgaden, Lüthi, R. / Swiss National Park

Summary Measure of ecological integrity.

Protected areas are classified based on their legal protection status. The classification ranges from 0 (no protection) to 10 (strict conservation status; no economic use). It is one of the indicators belonging to the continuum suitability indices CSI (consisting of LAN, POP, FRA, INF, TOP and ENV).

Legend

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| 10 | 6 | 2 |
| 9 | 5 | 1 |
| 8 | 4 | 0 |
| 7 | 3 | |

1 Introduction

Environmentally protected areas express a positive contribution to ecological integrity. Protected areas vary in their legal protection status (how much and what management is allowed), but also in their goals. With regard to worldwide biodiversity loss (Pimm et al., 2014), not only the management, but also the size of the protected area is important. With the environmental protection indicator, an attempt is made to evaluate environmentally protected areas with regard to ecological connectivity.

2 Data

The World Database on Protected Areas WDPA (UNEP-WPMC, 2017) contains all protected areas listed by the European Environment Agency including the nationally designated areas (CDDA) and the Natura 2000 sites. The dataset is updated every month. As the composition of datasets varies among countries, it has been complemented with national and regional datasets. The complete list is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Overview on protected area datasets

| Dataset | Country / region | Year (created) | Year (updated) | Source |
|---|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Protected areas | SI | | 2017 | Slovenian Environmental Agency |
| Forests reserves | SI | | 2015 | Slovenian Forest Service |
| Protected area - zonation | SI | | 2017 | Slovenian Environmental Agency |
| Protective forests | SI | | 2015 | Slovenian Forest Service |
| Natura2000 Slovenia | SI | | 2017 | Slovenian Environmental Agency |
| Ecological important areas | SI | | 2017 | Slovenian Environmental Agency |
| Natura2000 | EU | | 2016 | European Environment Agency |
| National list of protected areas (EUAP) | IT | 2010 | | Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare |
| Naturparke | Bayern | | 2015 | Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt |
| Bioshärenreservate | Bayern | | 2014 | Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt |
| Naturparks | Baden-Württemberg | | 2017 | Landesamt für Geoinformation und Landentwicklung Baden-Württemberg |

| Dataset | Country / region | Year (created) | Year (updated) | Source |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Biosphäreengebiete | Baden-Württemberg | | 2017 | Landesamt für Geoinformation und Landentwicklung Baden-Württemberg |
| Biotopkartierung | Bayern | | 2017 | Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt |
| Biotopkartierung | Baden-Württemberg | | 2017 | Landesanstalt für Umwelt Baden-Württemberg |
| Naturdenkmal | Bayern | | | Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt |
| Naturdenkmal | Baden-Württemberg | | | Landesanstalt für Umwelt Baden-Württemberg |
| Geschützte Landschaftsbestandteile | Bayern | | | Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt |
| Moorkarte | Baden-Württemberg | | 2017 | Landesanstalt für Umwelt Baden-Württemberg |
| Naturwaldreservate | Bayern | | | Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt |
| Trittsteine Netzwerk Naturwald | Oberösterreich / Steiermark | | 2017 | Nationalpark Kalkalpen |
| Regionale Naturpärke | CH | | 2017 | Netzwerk Schweizer Pärke |
| Naturerlebnispärke | CH | | 2017 | Netzwerk Schweizer Pärke |
| Pro Natura Schutzgebiete | CH | | 2017 | Pro Natura |
| Landschaften und Naturdenkmäler von nationaler Bedeutung (BLN) | CH | | 2017 | Bundesamt für Umwelt Schweiz |
| Moorlandschaften von nationaler Bedeutung | CH | | 2017 | Bundesamt für Umwelt Schweiz |
| Biosphere reservation | CH | | 2017 | Bundesamt für Umwelt Schweiz |

3 Methods

Directly comparing the management of individual protected areas with regard to ecological connectivity is not feasible, and criteria are subjective up to a certain point. For these reasons, a general classification scheme based on the legal protection status of protected areas has been developed (see Table 2).

Table 2: General classification scheme based on legal protection status

| Legal protection status | Indicator value (0-10) |
|--|------------------------|
| Strict conservation status, no economic use | 10 |
| Protected areas with strictly regulated economic use | 9 |
| Protected areas with legal restraints | 6-7 |
| Protected area where the management serves the sustainable development of natural ecosystems | 5 |
| Protected areas without legal restraints | 5 |
| No protection | 0 |

The protected area categories of each country were then assigned to the different categories according to their legal protection status by national/regional experts. The resulting classifications are listed in Table 3.

After transformation and preparation of all datasets, they were assigned to classified feature classes and converted to raster datasets. Areas included in more than one category were assigned the value of the protected area category with the highest indicator value.

Table 3: Classification scheme per country

| | Protected area category | Indicator value (0-10) |
|---------|--|------------------------|
| | Nationalparks (Kernzone, Sonderschutzzone) | 9 |
| | Europaschutzgebiete (Natura 2000) | 6 |
| | Naturschutzgebiete (IUCN Cat. IV) | 7 |
| | Naturschutzgebiete (IUCN Cat. Ia) | 10 |
| | Landschaftsschutzgebiete | 5 |
| | Natur- und Landschaftsschutzgebiete | 5 |
| | Naturparke | 5 |
| | Geschützte Landschaftsteile (IUCN Cat. III) | 6 |
| | Geschützte Landschaftsteile (IUCN Cat. IV) | 7 |
| | Geschützte Landschaftsteile (IUCN Cat. V) | 5 |
| | Biosphärenparks | 5 |
| | Ramsargebiete | 5 |
| | Pflanzenschutzgebiet (IUCN Cat. IV) | 7 |
| | Pflanzenschutzgebiet (IUCN Cat. V) | 5 |
| | Ruhegebiet | 7 |
| | Örtliche Schutzgebiete | 5 |
| | Sonderschutzgebiet (IUCN Cat. Ib) | 10 |
| | Sonderschutzgebiet (IUCN Cat. IV) | 7 |
| Austria | Naturdenkmal (IUCN Cat. III) | 6 |
| | Naturdenkmal (IUCN Cat. Ib) | 10 |
| | Naturdenkmal (IUCN Cat. IV) | 7 |
| | Schutzgebiet nach Ortsbildgesetz | 5 |
| | Geschützte Naturgebilde von örtlicher Bedeutung | 6 |
| | Geschützter Lebensraum | 7 |
| | Geschützte Biotope | 6 |
| | Ökologische Entwicklungsfläche | 7 |
| | Trittsteine (Netzwerk Naturwald) | 9 |
| | Wildnisgebiet | 10 |
| | Urwaldflächen | 10 |
| | Kärnten: Trinkwasserschutzgebiete (engeres Schutzgebiet) | 7 |
| | Kärnten: Trinkwasserschutzgebiete (Schutzgebiet) | 6 |
| | Steiermark: Wasserschutzgebiete (Schutzzone 2) | 6 |
| | Steiermark: Wasserschutzgebiete (Schutzzone 1) | 7 |
| | Salzburg: Schutzgebiet Wasser-Informationssystem Salzburg (engeres Schutzgebiet, Fassungsgebiet) | 7 |
| | Salzburg: Schutzgebiet Wasser-Informationssystem Salzburg (Schutzgebiet, Schutzzone) | 6 |
| | Kärnten: Freiraumkerne | 5 |
| | Kärnten: Amphibienwanderstrecken | 5 |
| | Oberösterreich: Biotopkartierung - Biotopflächen | 10 |
| | Salzburg: Amphibienwanderstrecken | 5 |

| | Protected area category | Indicator value (0-10) |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| | Tirol: Naturdenkmäler Tirol | 6 |
| France | Arrête de protection de biotope | 7 |
| | Parc national, Buffer zone /adhesion zone | 5 |
| | Parc national, core area | 9 |
| | Parc naturel régional | 5 |
| | Ramsar Site | 5 |
| | Réserve biologique (IUCN Cat. IV) | 7 |
| | Réserve biologique (IUCN Cat. Ia) | 10 |
| | Réserve intégrale de parc national | 10 |
| | Réserve nationale de chasse et de faune sauvage | 6 |
| | Réserve naturelle nationale | 7 |
| | Natura 2000 (habitat & birds) | 6 |
| | Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (Barcelona convention) | 5 |
| | Terrain acquis par le Conservation du Littoral | 7 |
| | Terrain acquis par un conservation d'espaces naturels | 7 |
| | UNESCO MAB Biosphere Reserve | 5 |
| | Réserve naturelle régionale | 7 |
| Germany | Bayern: Naturwaldreservat | 10 |
| | Nationalpark (Kernzone) | 9 |
| | Naturschutzgebiet | 7 |
| | Gesetzlich geschützte Biotope (Biotopkartierung, Moorkarte) | 6 |
| | Natura 2000 (Habitat & Bird) | 6 |
| | Biosphärenreservat | 6 |
| | Landschaftsschutzgebiet | 5 |
| | Naturpark | 5 |
| | Naturdenkmal | 5 |
| | Geschützte Landschaftsbestandteile (Bayern) | 5 |
| Trinkwasserschutzgebiete | 6 | |
| Italy | Other Protected Natural Regional Areas (Monumento naturale) (IUCN Cat. III) | 5 |
| | Other Protected Natural Regional Areas (Monumento naturale) (IUCN Cat. V) | 6 |
| | Other Protected Natural Regional Areas (Monumento naturale) (IUCN Cat. IV) | 7 |
| | Int. significance Natural Marine Area | 7 |
| | Regional/Provincial Nature Park (IUCN Cat. V) | 6 |
| | Regional/Provincial Nature Park (IUCN Cat. IV) | 7 |
| | National Park | 9 |
| | Ramsar Site | 7 |
| | Natural Marine Reserve and Natural Protected Marine Area | 7 |
| | Regional/Provincial Nature Reserve (IUCN Cat. IV) | 7 |
| | Regional/Provincial Nature Reserve (IUCN Cat. Ia) | 10 |
| | Regional/Provincial Nature Reserve (IUCN Cat. V) | 6 |
| | State Nature Reserve (IUCN Cat. Ia) | 10 |
| | State Nature Reserve (IUCN Cat. IV) | 7 |
| | Natura 2000 (Habitat & Bird) | 7 |
| | Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (Barcelona Convention) | 8 |
| World Heritage Site | 6 | |
| Friuli Venezia Giulia: zone di rispetto acque potabili | 6 | |

| | Protected area category | Indicator value (0-10) | |
|--|--|------------------------|---|
| | Friuli Venezia Giulia: acque dolci idone vita pesci | 5 | |
| | Lombardia: punti_di_captazione_acque (10 m radius) | 10 | |
| | Lombardia: punti_di_captazione_acque (200 m radius) | 7 | |
| Slovenia | Nature reserve, strict nature reserve, natural monument | 10 | |
| | Forest reserves (category I) | 10 | |
| | Triglav National Park zone 1, Triglav National Park zone 2 | 9 | |
| | Forest reserves (category II) | 9 | |
| | Regional park | 7 | |
| | Landscape park | 7 | |
| | Triglav National Park zone 3 | 7 | |
| | Protective forests | 7 | |
| | Natura 2000 | 6 | |
| | Ecological important areas | 5 | |
| | Drinking water protection zones on the level of municipalities | 5 | |
| | Switzerland | Ramsar | 5 |
| | | World Heritage Site | 5 |
| Schweizerischer Nationalpark | | 10 | |
| Bundesinventar der eidg. Jagdbanngebiete | | 7 | |
| Bundesinventar der Wasser- und Zugvogelreserv. | | 7 | |
| Bundesinventar der Auengebiete | | 7 | |
| Bundesinventar der Hoch- und Übergangsmoore | | 10 | |
| Bundesinventar der Flachmoore | | 7 | |
| Bundesinventar der Amphibienlaichgebiete | | 7 | |
| Bundesinventar der Trockenwiesen und -weiden | | 7 | |
| Smaragd-Gebiete | | 7 | |
| Regionale Naturpärke | | 5 | |
| Naturerlebnispärke | | 9 | |
| Pro Natura Schutzgebiete | | 7 | |
| Landschaften und Naturdenkmäler von nationaler Bedeutung (BLN) | | 5 | |
| Moorlandschaften von nationaler Bedeutung | | 5 | |
| Biosphere reservation | | 5 | |
| Gewässerschutzzonen (Grundwasserschutzzone S1) | | 7 | |
| Gewässerschutzzonen (Grundwasserschutzzone S2) | | 6 | |
| Wallis: kantonale Jagdbanngebiete | | 7 | |
| Wallis: regionale Naturschutzgebiete (Naturschutz) | 7 | | |
| Wallis: regionale Naturschutzgebiete (Landschaftsschutz) | 5 | | |

4 References

- Pimm, S. L., Jenkins, C. N., Abell, R., Brooks, T. M., Gittleman, J. L., Joppa, L. N., Raven, P. H., Roberts, C. M., Sexton, J. O., 2014, The biodiversity of species and their rates of extinction, distribution, and protection, *Science* **344**(6187).
- UNEP-WPMC, 2017, The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)