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## 8.1 Angola

### Protected and conserved areas in Angola<sup>34</sup>

Angola has 14 protected areas covering 87,531 km<sup>2</sup> of land and 24 km<sup>2</sup> of ocean (UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, 2019c).

The country's protected land area increased from 6.5% after Angola's independence in 1975 to 12.58% of the national surface area in 2013. The creation of a network of marine protected areas is expected in the near future. The Ministry of the Environment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and the Sea, foresees the creation of a network of marine protected areas, in which a Networking Plan for Marine Protected Areas will be prepared, where the classification and characteristics of the network of marine protected areas, as well as the management and conservation measures to be applied to each of the defined protection and management classes, will be proposed.

Angola's biodiversity is very poorly known, with comparatively limited research before independence in 1975 halting altogether in the three decades of civil war and unrest that followed. In their recent book on Angola, Huntley et al. (2019) note that "[m]ost National Parks still lack the most basic management capacity and effectiveness, despite the wealth of legislation promulgated since the Base Law for the Environment was approved in 1998" (p. 449). The authors further state that "[f]ortunately, despite the reverses of the past decades, each protected area still includes areas of

sufficient dimension that can, with effective management, achieve significant biodiversity conservation goals. Since 2017, the new government leadership gives promise for a revitalised and energetic approach to conservation in Angola, as demonstrated in the recent Strategic Plan for the Conservation Areas System of Angola" (p. 500).

There is an initiative to implement marine spatial planning (MSP) in Angola, and a pilot area for an experimental MSP project covering an area of approximately 107,000 km<sup>2</sup> has recently been identified. A key element of the process is to identify and describe a network of ecologically- or biologically-significant marine areas (Huntley et al., 2019).

### Transboundary protected and conserved areas

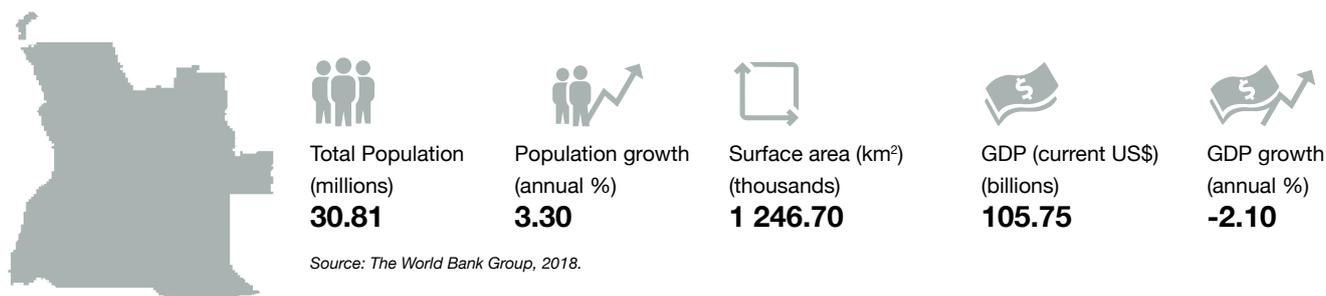
Angola includes part of four transboundary conservation areas, namely Iona Skeleton Coast TFCA, Kavango-Zambezi TFCA, Liuwa Plain-Mussuma TFCA and Mayombe Forest Transfrontier Protected Area.

### 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 35 relevant laws and policies in Angola (Tessema, n.d.).

<sup>34</sup> This section draws on information contained in Angola's Fifth National Report to the CBD (Republic of Angola, 2014).

**Figure 8.1 Angola Summary**



**Area Protected:**

**14 protected areas**



covering **87 531 km<sup>2</sup>** of land



covering **24 km<sup>2</sup>** of ocean

Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, 2019c.

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



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



**25 endemic bird species**



**291 native animal species**



**high marine and freshwater biodiversity**

**Coverage of protected areas in Angola**

Type of protected area	Area protected or conserved*	Area protected or conserved**
Terrestrial and inland water	6.97%	12.50%
Coastal and marine	0.00%	Not found

\* WDPa dataset      \*\* From National Report on Biodiversity  
Source: Republic of Angola (2014); UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019c).

**Priority areas for conservation**



**1 sites**  
Alliance for Zero Extinction sites



**23 sites**  
Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas



**2 sites**  
Key Biodiversity Areas

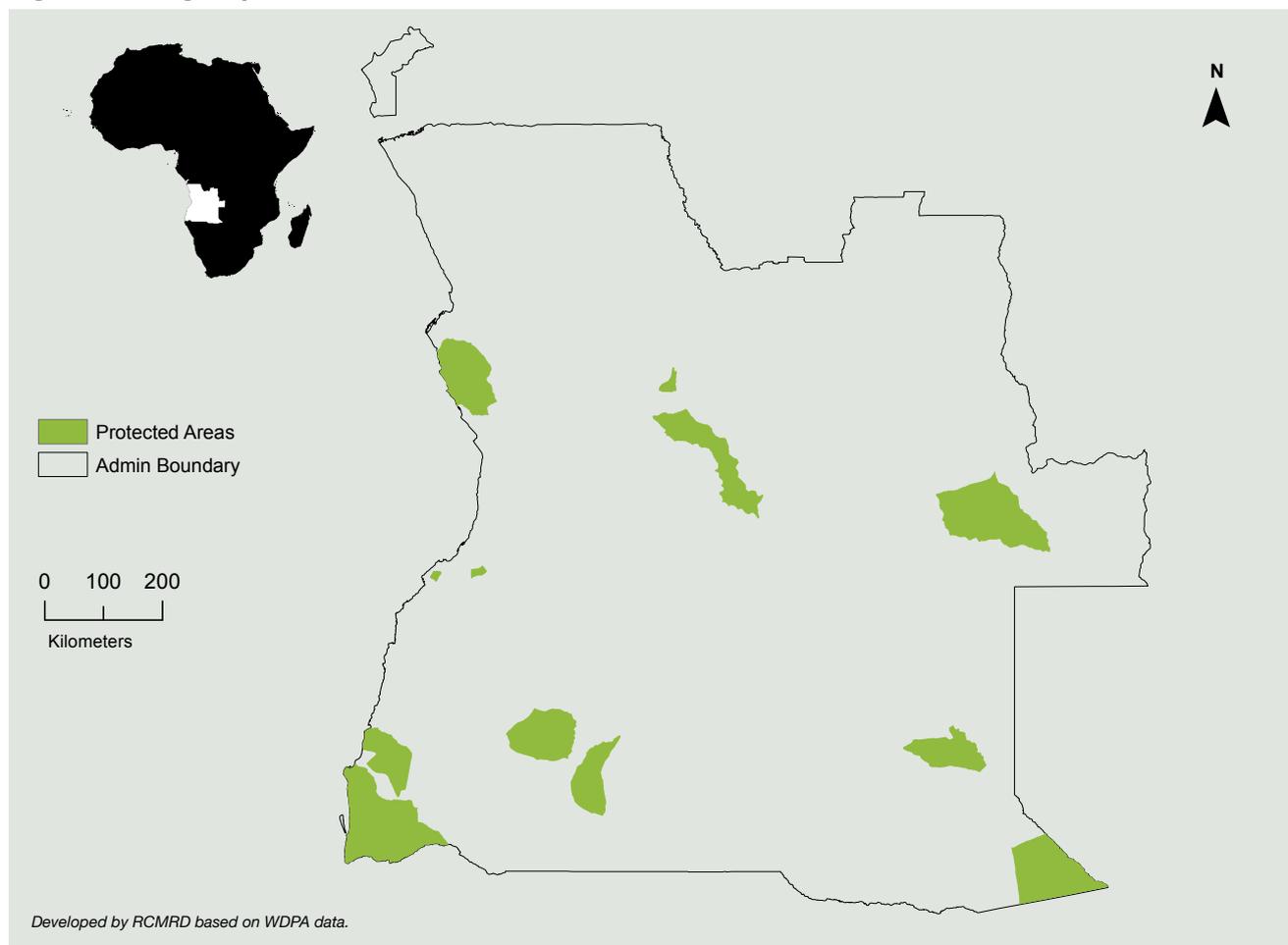
Source: AZE Secretariat (2019); BirdLife International, (2019b, 2019c).

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



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

**Figure 8.2 Angola protected areas**



### Key species<sup>35</sup>

Angola is home to an incredible diversity of habitats, and therefore also to a huge variety of species, with up to 291 native species, most of which are from the *Rodentia* (85), *Chiroptera* (73), *Carnivora* (39) and *Cetartiodactyla* (33) orders. There is a large number of endemic and near endemic species, most of which are rodents or bats.

According to Angola's Fifth National Report to the CBD (2014), mammals of particular interest include the endemic giant sable (*Hippotragus niger variani*), the Western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla ssp. gorilla*), the African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), and the mountain zebra (*Equus zebra*). The conservation status of many of these species is poorly understood. Populations of African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) and brown fur seal (*Arctocephalus pusillus*) are considered stable.

Angola is home to 25 endemic bird species. Little is known about Angola's diversity of microfauna and flora, but it is known that

many species suffer from high harvesting levels for timber, charcoal, food, as well as local and international live trade.

The country also has high marine and freshwater biodiversity, including five species of sea turtles, and many species of cetaceans. Small-scale fishing of fish and crustaceans is a critical part of the subsistence of rural coastal communities. Mackerel has been critically overharvested, resulting in the imposition of an annual four-month ban. The introduction of alien species of Tilapia is likely due to the prevalence of fish farming projects.

### Pressures and threats<sup>36</sup>

Angola's biodiversity is subject to many threats and pressures. The main pressures are from habitat due to subsistence agriculture, mining, infrastructure, deforestation for charcoal and timber, and a very high incidence of fires. Poaching, including for the bushmeat trade, is also a major threat. Overfishing, particularly of mackerel, has resulted in an annual four-month ban. Angola is in the process of updating its legislation, but implementation and enforcement are required.

<sup>35</sup> This section draws on information contained in Angola's Fifth National Report to the CBD (Republic of Angola, 2014).

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