



© Jaco Venter, Nimule National Park, South Sudan

8.19 South Sudan

Protected and conserved areas in South Sudan⁸⁸

South Sudan has 27 protected areas covering 98,214 km² of the land (UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, 2019t).

Several areas have been proposed for gazettment as protected areas, which would help exceed the Aichi Target 11. Despite having a large protected area coverage, there is lack of active or adequate management in most of the protected areas. A major challenge relates to the boundaries of several protected areas which are not clear delineated, limiting effective policing. In addition, there seems to be lack of clarity in the forestry sector as to who at the different levels of management owns which forest resource.

Due to many years of conflict, which inhibited actions on the ground, the protected area estate needs to be re-evaluated to ensure that it is still representative and ecologically relevant.

Transboundary protected and conserved areas

South Sudan includes part of four transboundary conservation areas. Boma-Gambella National Park with Ethiopia, Kidepo Game Reserve–Kidepo Valley with Uganda, Lantoto- Garamba with Congo and Nimule National Park-Otze Wildlife Reserve with Uganda.

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 eight relevant laws and policies in South Sudan (Tessema, 2019).

Key species⁸⁹

South Sudan has a wide range of habitats supporting a rich diversity of animals and plants. It is home to one of the great migrations in the world – the white-eared kob (*Kobus kob leucotis*), tiang (*Damaliscus lunatus tiang*), Mongalla gazelle (*Eudorcas albonotata*), and bohor reedbuck (*Redunca redunca*). The country is a stronghold for the endangered shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*) and the black-crowned crane (*Balearica pavonina*).

South Sudan also has many species of reptiles, freshwater fish and plants, including many endemic species.

Pressures and threats⁹⁰

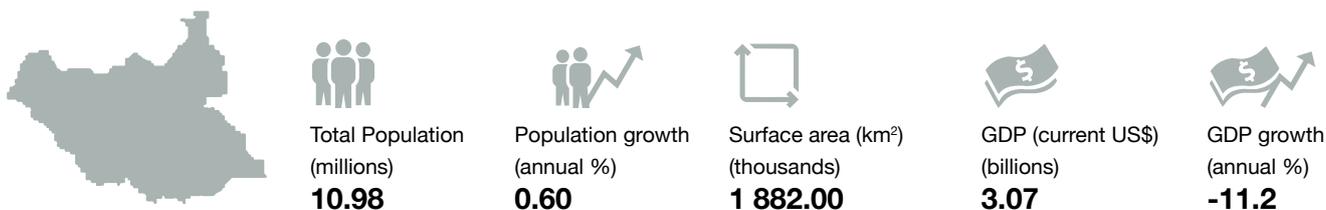
Direct threats to biodiversity in South Sudan include: wildlife poaching and trafficking; deforestation from charcoal production and illegal logging of hardwoods; expansion of livestock and agriculture; habitat fragmentation, including from extractive industries; human-wildlife conflict; and impacts of climate change, including increasing desertification and changing growing seasons.

⁸⁸ The section draws on information contained in South Sudan's Sixth National Report to the CBD (Republic of South Sudan, 2019).

⁸⁹ The section draws on information contained in South Sudan's Fifth National Report to the CBD (Republic of South Sudan, 2015).

⁹⁰ Ibid.

Figure 8.37 South Sudan Summary



Source: The World Bank Group, 2018.

Area Protected:

27 protected areas covering **98 214 km²** of land



Source: UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, (2019t)

Protected and conserved areas in South Sudan in IUCN Management Categories



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

Coverage of protected areas in South Sudan

Type of protected area	Area protected or conserved*	Area protected or conserved
Terrestrial and inland water	15.50%	13.00%

* WDPA dataset

** From National Report on Biodiversity

Source: Republic of South Sudan (2015); UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2019t).

Protected and conserved areas designated as global sites of importance in South Sudan

Global designation	No. of sites
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1

Source: Ramsar (2019); UNESCO (2019a, 2019b)

Protected and conserved areas in South Sudan in IUCN Governance Types



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

National designations of protected and conserved areas in South Sudan

National designation	No.	Area (km ²)
National Park	10	74 991
Game Reserve	12	29 792
Nature Conservation Area	2	2 499
Forest Reserve	1	1 160
Bird Sanctuary	1	4 999

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

Priority areas for conservation



1 sites
Alliance for Zero Extinction sites



12 sites
Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas



3 sites
Key Biodiversity Areas

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

Indirect threats include: past and continuing armed conflicts and the resulting crisis of internally-displaced populations and proliferation of firearms; inadequate and ineffective legal, institutional and administrative capacities; negative impacts of

population growth and economic development; lack of land use planning; low public awareness; and emerging oil exploration and production.

Figure 8.38 South Sudan protected areas

