

World on the Edge - Natural Systems Data - Biodiversity

[Forest in Protected Areas by Region, 2010](#)

[Marine Protected Area in Top 15 Countries, 2009](#)

[Threatened Species in Major Groups of Organisms, 2010](#)

A full listing of data for the entire book is on-line at:

http://www.earth-policy.org/books/wote/wote_data

This is part of a supporting dataset for Lester R. Brown, **World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse** (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011). For more information and a free download of the book, see Earth Policy Institute on-line at www.earth-policy.org.

Forest in Protected Areas by Region, 2010

Region	Protected Forest Area	
	Million Hectares ¹	Percent of Total Forest Area ²
Africa	83	13.4
Asia	126	23.7
Europe	40	4.0
North and Central America	71	10.2
Oceania	31	16.2
South America	110	17.0
World	460	12.5

Notes:

¹ Note: One hectare = 2.47 acres.

² Information availability is relatively low in Africa (91.8 percent of forest area), Asia (89.3 percent) and South America (74.6 percent).

Source: U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010* (Rome: 2010), p. 60.

This is part of a supporting dataset for Lester R. Brown, **World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse** (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011). For more information and a free download of the book, see Earth Policy Institute on-line at www.earth-policy.org.

Marine Protected Area in Top 15 Countries, 2009

Country	Marine Area Protected	
	Square Kilometers	Percent of Territorial Waters
Australia	264,359	28.3
United States	227,839	24.7
Ecuador	139,557	13.0
Russia	119,742	9.1
Greenland	99,737	36.5
Indonesia	64,325	1.9
Brazil	51,015	20.1
Mexico	49,123	16.7
Canada	33,160	1.2
Italy	25,932	16.7
Japan	21,535	5.6
Philippines	18,922	1.5
Kiribati	15,618	20.2
Venezuela	14,399	15.3
New Zealand	12,802	7.1

Source: Compiled by Earth Policy Institute from U.N. Statistics Division and U.N. Department of Social and Economic Affairs, *Millennium Development Goals Indicators*, electronic database, at mdgs.un.org, updated 23 June 2010.

This is part of a supporting dataset for Lester R. Brown, **World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse** (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011). For more information and a free download of the book, see Earth Policy Institute on-line at www.earth-policy.org.

Threatened Species in Major Groups of Organisms, 2010

Group	Species Evaluated		Share Threatened*			Total Share Threatened Percent
	Number	Percent of Estimated Described Species	Vulnerable	Endangered Percent	Critical	
Mammals	5,491	100.0	9.0	8.2	3.4	20.6
Birds	10,027	100.0	6.8	3.7	1.9	12.4
Reptiles	2,806	30.5	10.3	7.1	3.8	21.2
Amphibians	6,296	94.8	10.4	12.0	7.7	30.1
Fishes	8,848	27.8	12.1	4.5	4.2	20.9
Insects	3,269	0.3	14.6	5.1	2.7	22.4
Mollusks	3,149	3.7	18.6	10.4	11.8	40.9
Plants	12,914	4.2	36.5	18.6	12.5	67.6

* Note: The IUCN categories for species according to threat of extinction are Least Concern, Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, Extinct in the Wild, and Extinct. Vulnerable species are those that face a high risk of extinction in the wild, Endangered species are those that face a very high risk of extinction in the wild, and Critically Endangered species are those that face an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. The total share threatened in each group do not mean that the remainder are all categorized as Least Concern; a number of species in many groups are listed as Near Threatened or Data Deficient.

Source: Compiled by Earth Policy Institute from "Numbers of Threatened Species by Major Groups of Organisms (1996-2010)" and "Changes in Numbers of Species in the Threatened Categories (CR, EN, VU) from 1996 to 2010," summary tables for International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*, version 2010.4, at www.iucnredlist.org, viewed 15 November 2010; IUCN Species Survival Commission, *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1* (Gland, Switzerland: 2000).

This is part of a supporting dataset for Lester R. Brown, **World on the Edge: How to prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse** (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2008). For more information and a free download of the book, see Earth Policy Institute on-line at www.earth-policy.org.