

Surface of the terrestrial
protected areas (sdg_15_20)

ESMS Indicator Profile (ESMS-IP)
Compiling agency: Eurostat, the statistical
office of the European Union

Eurostat metadata
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1. Contact
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Eurostat Quality Profile	
4.5. Source data	European Environment Agency (EEA)
5.1. Frequency of dissemination	Every year
5.2. Timeliness	T+2 years
6.1. Reference area	All EU MS
6.2. Comparability - geographical	All EU MS
6.3. Coverage - Time	> 10 years
6.4. Comparability - over time	> 4 data points

Description of Eurostat quality grading system under the following [link](#).

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1. Contact	Top
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1.1. Contact organisation	Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union
1.2. Contact organisation unit	E2: Environmental statistics and accounts; sustainable development
1.5. Contact mail address	e-mail contact: ESTAT-SDG-MONITORING@ec.europa.eu

2. Metadata update Top	
2.1. Metadata last certified	03/05/2024
2.2. Metadata last posted	03/05/2024
2.3. Metadata last update	03/05/2024

3. Relevance Top
<p>The indicator is part of the EU Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator set. It is used to monitor progress towards SDG 15 on protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of land which is embedded in the European Commission's Priorities under the 'European Green Deal'.</p> <p>SDG 15 seeks to protect, restore and promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, inland-water and mountain ecosystems. This includes efforts to sustainably manage forests and halt deforestation, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, halt biodiversity loss and protect threatened species.</p> <p>The indicator can be considered as similar to the global SDG indicators 15.1.2 "Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type" and 15.4.1 "Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity".</p> <p>The EU Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive aim to maintain or restore a favourable conservation status of protected habitats and species, and safeguard their sustainable use and management. The Birds Directive protects all wild bird species and their habitats. The Habitats Directive protects more than 1 300 other rare, threatened or endemic species of wild animals and plants and 233 natural habitat types. In addition, Natura 2000 network of protected areas comprises sites designated under the Birds and Habitats Directives by EU Member States.</p> <p>The EU biodiversity strategy aims to protect at least 30% of land and sea in Europe including both nationally designated sites and Natura 2000 sites.</p>

4. Statistical Indicator Top
4.1. Data description
<p>This indicator measures the extent of terrestrial protected areas, comprising nationally designated protected areas and Natura 2000 sites. A nationally designated area is an area protected by national legislation.</p> <p>The Natura 2000 sites are designated to safeguard Europe's species and habitats, listed under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.</p>
4.2. Unit of measure
km ² and terrestrial protected area (%)
4.3. Reference Period

Calender year
4.4. Accuracy - overall
Data provided by the Member States to the Commission are consolidated at least yearly by the European Environment Agency.
4.5. Source data
European Environment Agency (EEA) Data source: European Environment Agency (EEA), European Commission - Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) (ENV_BIO4) Data provider: European Environment Agency (EEA)

5. Frequency and Timeliness of dissemination Top
5.1. Frequency of dissemination
Every year Indicator is updated annually.
5.2. Timeliness
T+2 years New data points are disseminated within two year after the end of the reference year.

6. Coverage and comparability Top
6.1. Reference area
All EU MS Data are presented for all EU Member States for 2021. Data for France (FR) refer to metropolitan France. Before 2020 only EU27 aggregate.
6.2. Comparability - geographical
All EU MS Data are comparable between all EU Member States.
6.3. Coverage - Time
> 10 years Presented time series starts in 2011, EU aggregate starts in 2011. Data per Member State before 2021 not available.
6.4. Comparability - over time
> 4 data points Length of comparable time series without methodological break is > 4 data points.

7. Accessibility and clarity Top
7.1. Dissemination format - Publications
Analysis of indicator is presented in Eurostat's annual monitoring report on Sustainable development in the EU (progress towards SDGs in the EU context).
7.2. Dissemination format - online database
See table sdg_15_20
7.3. Dissemination format - other

Eurostat dedicated section on SDGs: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sdi/overview>

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[European Environment Agency Datahub, Terrestrial protected areas](#)

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