

BIODIVERSITY

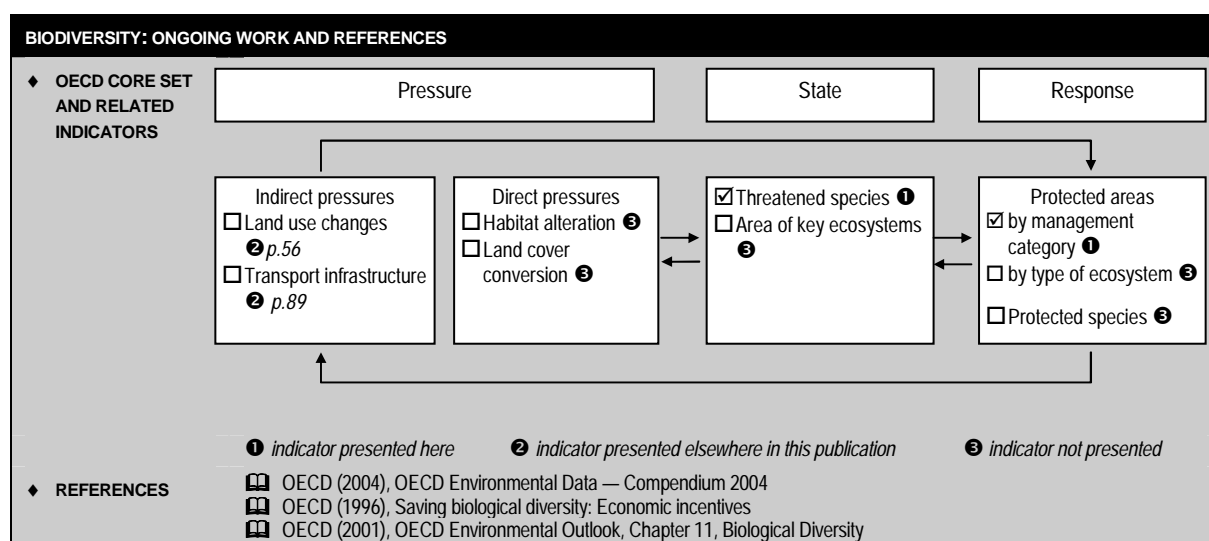
Biodiversity can be defined as the variety of and variability among living organisms; it covers both diversity at the ecosystem and species levels and genetic diversity within species. Conservation of biodiversity has become a key concern nationally and globally. Pressures on biodiversity can be physical (e.g. habitat alteration and fragmentation through changes in land use and land cover conversions), chemical (e.g. pollution from human activities) or biological (e.g. alteration of population dynamics and species structure through the release of exotic species or the commercial use of wildlife resources).

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity form an integral part of sustainable development, encompassing the integration of biodiversity concerns into economic policies as well as measures to protect areas, habitats and species. Protection levels range from full to partial protection in actual protected areas to promotion of biodiversity conservation outside such areas (e.g. on farms or in forests). Performance can be assessed against domestic objectives and international agreements such as: the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn, 1979), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, Washington, 1973), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar, 1971) and the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979). A target endorsed at the WSSD (Johannesburg, 2002) aims to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 at the global, regional and national levels. The main challenge is to maintain or restore the diversity and integrity of ecosystems, species and genetic material and to ensure a sustainable use of biodiversity.

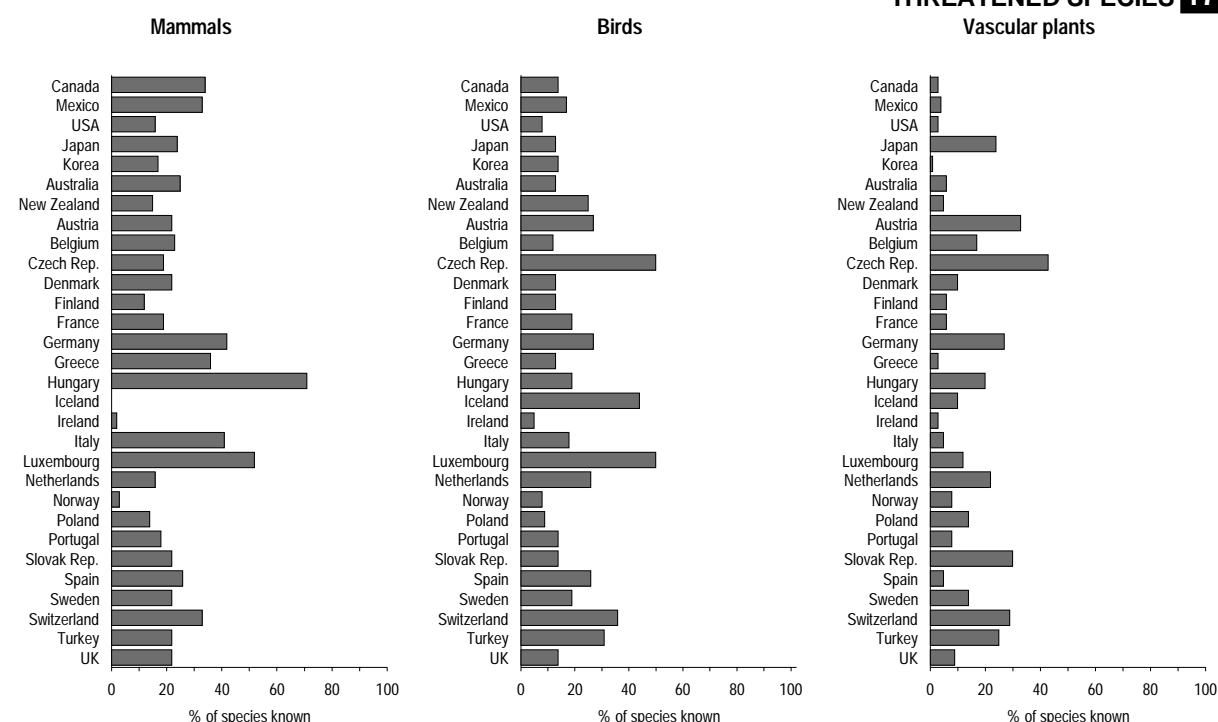
Indicators presented here relate to the conservation of biodiversity and concern:

- ♦ the number of threatened species compared to the number of known species. "Threatened" refers to the "endangered", "critically endangered" and "vulnerable" categories, i.e. species in danger of extinction and species soon likely to be in danger of extinction. Data cover mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and vascular plants. Other major groups (e.g. invertebrates, fungi) are not covered at the present time.
- ♦ protected areas, i.e. areas under management categories I to VI of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) classification, which refer to different levels of protection and protected areas without IUCN category assignment. Categories I and II (wilderness areas, strict nature reserves and national parks) reflect the highest protection level. Protected areas are a form of defence against change in land use and in other human activities, which, if unsustainable, can pose a threat to ecosystems and landscapes, and lead to biodiversity changes including natural habitat loss.

These indicators need to be complemented with indicators on the sustainable use of biodiversity as a resource, and should be read in connection with information on the density of population and of human activities.



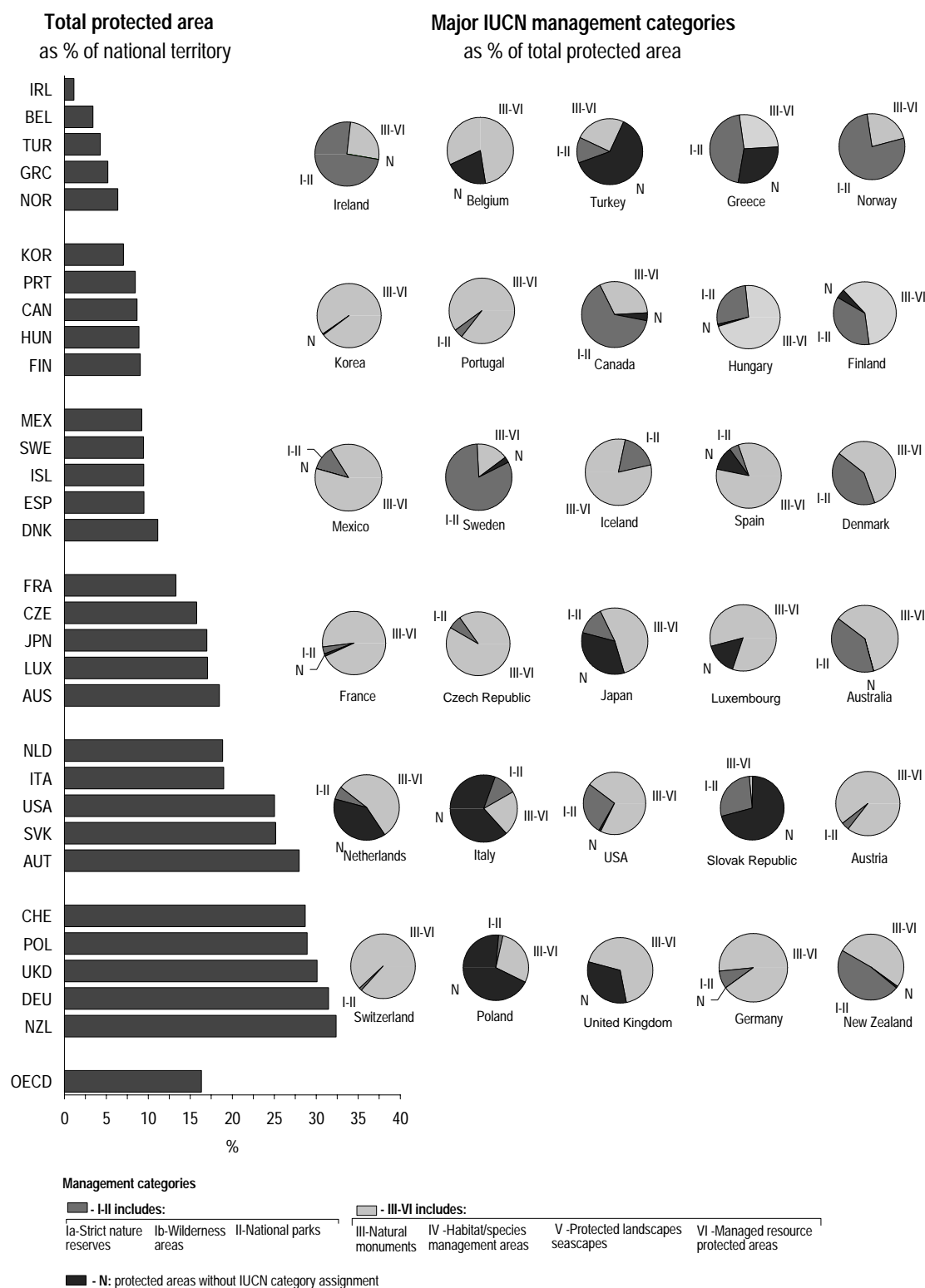
THREATENED SPECIES 17



		Mammals		Birds		Fish		Reptiles		Amphibians		Vascular plants	
		species known	species threatened	species known	species threatened	species known	species threatened	species known	species threatened	species known	species threatened	species known	species threatened
		number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Canada	♦	193	34	426	14	1021	8	42	74	42	45	4120	3
Mexico	♦	491	33	1054	17	506	24	704	18	290	17	10819	4
USA	♦	466	16	1090	8	2640	4	368	10	222	9	22200	3
Japan	♦	200	24	700	13	300	25	97	19	64	22	7000	24
Korea	♦	100	17	417	14	905	1	24	13	17	12	3971	..
Australia	♦	348	25	816	13	4368	1	851	6	213	13	20000	6
New Zealand	♦	46	15	170	25	1048	1	61	18	4	25	2400	5
Austria	♦	100	22	242	27	60	42	16	75	21	100	2950	33
Belgium	♦	79	23	195	12	59	36	8	63	18	50	1550	17
Czech Rep.	♦	90	19	220	50	65	40	11	55	21	43	2700	43
Denmark	♦	50	22	219	13	38	16	5	-	14	14	1000	10
Finland	♦	59	12	240	13	68	12	5	40	5	20	3200	6
France	♦	121	19	375	19	420	8	40	15	40	28	6067	6
Germany	♦	87	42	238	27	268	31	14	79	21	62	3272	27
Greece	♦	110	36	422	13	107	24	59	7	19	-	5700	3
Hungary	♦	83	71	373	19	81	32	16	100	16	100	2500	20
Iceland	♦	4	..	75	44	5	485	10
Ireland	♦	57	2	610	5	..	23	3	33	3	-	2100	3
Italy	♦	118	41	473	18	93	29	58	36	38	42	5599	5
Luxembourg	♦	64	52	130	50	43	28	6	100	14	93	1258	12
Netherlands	♦	64	16	172	26	45	31	7	86	16	56	1420	22
Norway	♦	88	3	222	8	195	-	5	20	6	50	1195	8
Poland	♦	92	14	395	9	129	7	8	38	18	..	2500	14
Portugal	♦	96	18	313	14	35	23	34	9	17	-	3095	8
Slovak Rep.	♦	90	22	341	14	83	24	13	38	18	44	3352	30
Spain	♦	118	26	368	26	68	53	56	41	25	40	8000	5
Sweden	♦	67	22	246	19	55	16	6	50	13	46	2272	14
Switzerland	♦	82	33	195	36	54	39	15	73	20	80	2554	29
Turkey	♦	135	22	455	31	192	10	106	16	22	14	10000	25
UK	♦	64	22	247	14	54	11	9	..	14	..	2230	9

♦ See Technical Annex for data sources, notes and comments.

18 PROTECTED AREAS



PROTECTED AREAS **18**

	Major protected areas, 2004				Strict nature reserves, wilderness areas, national parks, 2004			
	Number of sites	Total size 1 000 km ²	% of territory	per capita km ² /1 000 inh.	Number of sites	Total size 1 000 km ²	% of territory	per capita km ² /1 000 inh.
Canada	5354	866	8.7	27.6	1946	559	5.6	17.8
Mexico	187	181	9.2	1.8	100	21	1.1	0.2
USA	♦ 7882	2414	25.1	8.4	856	651	6.8	2.3
Japan	961	64	17.0	0.5	93	9	2.3	0.1
Korea	44	7	7.1	0.1	-	-	-	-
Australia	♦ 5655	1426	18.5	72.5	2686	564	7.3	28.7
New Zealand	3891	87	32.4	22.2	167	42	15.4	10.6
Austria	1087	23	28.0	2.9	10	1	1.1	0.1
Belgium	618	1	3.4	0.1	-	-	-	-
Czech Rep.	1768	12	15.8	1.2	5	1	1.1	0.1
Denmark	♦ 339	5	11.1	0.9	35	2	4.6	0.4
Finland	3466	31	9.1	5.9	62	11	3.2	2.1
France	♦ 1327	73	13.3	1.2	5	3	0.5	-
Germany	7242	112	31.5	1.4	13	9	2.6	0.1
Greece	147	7	5.2	0.6	17	3	2.3	0.3
Hungary	236	8	8.9	0.8	5	2	2.4	0.2
Iceland	79	10	9.5	34.1	5	2	1.7	6.2
Ireland	90	1	1.2	0.2	6	1	0.9	0.2
Italy	752	57	19.0	1.0	24	6	2.1	0.1
Luxembourg	63	0	17.1	1.0	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	♦ 1596	8	18.9	0.5	15	1	1.2	-
Norway	♦ 1795	21	6.4	4.6	119	16	4.9	3.5
Poland	1822	91	29.0	2.3	17	2	0.6	0.1
Portugal	♦ 68	8	8.5	0.8	6	0	0.4	-
Slovak Rep.	1176	12	25.2	2.3	614	3	7.0	0.6
Spain	♦ 602	48	9.5	1.2	38	2	0.4	0.1
Sweden	4878	43	9.5	4.8	752	35	7.7	3.9
Switzerland	2190	12	28.7	1.6	1	0	0.4	-
Turkey	474	34	4.3	0.5	36	4	0.5	0.1
UK	♦ 7723	74	30.1	1.2	-	-	-	-
OECD	63512	5736	16.4	5.0	7633	1949	5.6	1.7
World	104628	19551	14.6	3.1	10810	6070	4.5	1.0

♦ See Technical Annex for data sources, notes and comments.

STATE AND TRENDS SUMMARY

Protected areas have grown significantly since 1980 in almost all countries, reaching 16.4 per cent of total area for the OECD as a whole.

Actual protection levels and related trends are difficult to evaluate, as protected areas change over time: new areas are designated, boundaries are revised and some sites may be destroyed or changed by pressures from economic development or natural processes. Environmental performance depends both on the designation of the area (e.g. the representativeness of species or ecosystems protected) and on management effectiveness.