



## United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

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2 October 2019

Excellency,

The end-date for achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including Target 11 on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, is rapidly approaching, with just over a year remaining. It is important that global figures on this target reflect the most up-to-date information on biological diversity available, and capture the realities on the ground in each one of the Parties to the Convention. Hence, I am writing to seek your assistance and support in having your country's information verified and updated, as appropriate, in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). This will help to ensure the accuracy of information that will be used to report to important upcoming meetings, including the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15), in Kunming, China, in October 2020.

From the seventh meeting of the COP onwards, the importance of the WDPA for monitoring progress towards global targets has been recognized. Accordingly, successive decisions of the COP (e.g. decisions VII/28 (para 32), IX/18 (para 11), X/31 (para 35), XIII/2 (para 6), and 14/8 (para 5)) encouraged Parties to provide up-to-date information to the WDPA.

To assist with this, please find attached a summary of your country's data as currently reported in the WDPA. The complete dataset for your country can be accessed at: [www.protectedplanet.net/country/MX](http://www.protectedplanet.net/country/MX). To help generate global coverage statistics, to demonstrate your achievements and successes, and assess progress on other qualitative elements of Target 11, updated data should be provided in GIS format with descriptive data following the WDPA schema, as described in the WDPA Manual, which is available at: <https://www.protectedplanet.net/c/wdpa-manual/wdpa-manual-v15>.

Updates in the WDPA will be required by **1 May 2020** for reporting on the status of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 to the COP-15. Any updates received prior to 15 January 2020 will be used to inform the IUCN World Conservation Congress, to be held in June 2020 in Marseille, France.

I thank you for your cooperation and continued support to the Convention, as well as your contribution towards progress on the elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD  
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

His Excellency  
Sr. Victor Manuel Toledo  
Secretario  
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)  
Ciudad de México, Mexico  
E-mail: [uca@semarnat.gob.mx](mailto:uca@semarnat.gob.mx)

