

## MARSHALL ISLANDS – Country Data Dossier for Protected Areas Summary Sheet

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### Estimated current PA coverage (Source: DOPA, see footnote on next page)

7.39 % Terrestrial (16 km<sup>2</sup>)

0.19 % Marine (3 831 km<sup>2</sup>)

### Terrestrial and Marine Ecoregions

Marshall Islands has 1 terrestrial and 1 marine ecological regions.

Out of 1 terrestrial ecological region:

- 1 ecological region (Eastern Micronesia tropical moist forests) is a high priority candidate site for further protection.

Out of 1 marine ecological region:

- 1 ecological region (Marshall Islands) is the highest priority candidate site for further protection

### Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

Marshall Islands has 6 IBAs: 5 IBAs have no protection and 1 IBA has partial protection. Bringing some IBAs that have no protection or having partial protection under protected areas and improving the management effectiveness of all IBA PAs are priority actions.

### Overlaps between unprotected and partially protected IBAs and candidates Ecoregions for further protection

There are 10 overlaps between IBAs and ecoregions (4 terrestrial, 6 marine) whose further protection is a priority action.

### STAR GEF-5 Allocation and Utilization

All focal areas are still within budget for the Marshall Islands. Allocation not utilized is 157,064 USD.

### STAR GEF-6 Allocation and Utilization

Total Biodiversity GEF-6 Allocation is 2,079,950 USD. Allocation remaining to be programmed is 79,950 USD.

For undertaking implementation of the identified actions above, countries can request the use of their GEF-6 allocations, as agreed upon in COP 11 decision XI/24 paragraphs 1 (a) (b) (g) and paragraph 3. Specifically, in BD1 “Improving Sustainability of Protected Areas Systems”, both Program 1 “Improving Financial Sustainability and Effective Management of the National Ecological Infrastructure” and Program 2 “Nature’s Last Stand: Expanding the Reach of the Global Protected Area Estate” as well as in BD2 “Reduce Threats to Globally Significant Biodiversity”, Program 3 “Preventing the Extinction of Known Threatened Species”.

## **MARSHALL ISLANDS – Terrestrial and Marine Ecoregions, Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas in Danger, Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites, Overlaps between unprotected and partially protected IBAs and AZEs and candidates Ecoregions for further protection, Actions Identified in the PoWPA Action Plan, and GEF Allocations**

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### **Terrestrial and Marine Ecoregions<sup>1</sup> (all PAs) (2)**

Marshall Islands has 1 terrestrial and 1 marine ecological regions.

Out of 1 terrestrial ecological region:

- 1 ecological region (Eastern Micronesia tropical moist forests) is a high priority candidate site for further protection as its occurrence in the Marshall Islands is more than 20% and its worldwide protection is less than 10%.

Out of 1 marine ecological region:

- 1 ecological region (Marshall Islands) is the highest priority candidate site for further protection as they occur entirely in the Marshall Islands and their worldwide protection is less than 10%.

Name	T/M	% in country	% protected in country	% protected worldwide	% country covered	Country contribution
Marshall Islands	M	99.32	8.93	9.55	100.00	92.91
Eastern Micronesia tropical moist forests	T	39.78	7.39	4.84	100.00	60.79

### **Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)<sup>2</sup>**

Marshall Islands has 6 IBAs.

- 5 IBAs have no protection
- 1 IBA has partial protection

Bringing some IBAs that have no protection or having partial protection under protected areas and improving the management effectiveness of all IBA PAs are priority actions.

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<sup>1</sup> The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) has updated the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas which presents information on the coverage of terrestrial and marine ecological regions under existing protected areas using the 2014 World Database of Protected Areas in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). [http://dopa-explorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa\\_explorer/](http://dopa-explorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa_explorer/)

<sup>2</sup> BirdLife International has coordinated the identification of over 12,000 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) worldwide. <http://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/programmes/important-bird-and-biodiversity-areas-ibas>; also see the database at <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/country>

## Country data dossier for protected areas

Site Number	Site Name	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	%Protected	Protection class	Latitude	Longitude
23787	Bokak Atoll	4.87	0.00	None	14.7	170.0
24511	Taka Atoll	1.49	0.00	None	11.1	169.8
24512	Enewetok Atoll	7.40	0.00	None	11.4	162.3
24513	Mili Atoll	59.16	0.00	None	6.2	171.7
24514	Northeast Islets, Majuro Atoll	51.99	0.00	None	7.1	171.3
24510	Bikar Atoll	0.72	32.10	Partial	12.3	170.1

### Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in Danger<sup>3</sup>

There are no data for IBAs danger.

### Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites (AZEs)<sup>4</sup>

There are no data for AZEs.

### Overlaps between unprotected and partially protected IBAs and candidates Ecoregions for further protection<sup>5</sup>

Out of 4 terrestrial overlaps:

- If protection is extended to 4 IBAs which are not protected hitherto in the Marshall Islands, those actions also improve protection status of terrestrial ecoregions that have a worldwide protection of less than 10% and a significant occurrence in the Marshall Islands (20-80% in the country).

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<sup>3</sup> BirdLife International has coordinated the identification of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) worldwide, and has recently highlighted a subset of 356 IBAs in Danger that face the most severe threats. <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/ibaidites>

<sup>4</sup> The Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) has identified sites supporting the last remaining populations of one or more Endangered or Critically Endangered species (as listed on the IUCN Red List), thereby providing a tool to focus conservation efforts to prevent potential imminent global extinctions, consistent with Aichi Biodiversity Target 12. <http://www.zeroextinction.org/>; also see the database at <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/siteprotection>

<sup>5</sup> These data come from the superimposition of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) identified by BirdLife International and terrestrial and marine ecological regions under existing protected areas recorded by the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) using the 2014 World Database of Protected Areas in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). [http://dopa-explorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa\\_explorer/](http://dopa-explorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa_explorer/); <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/country>.

Country data dossier for protected areas

Out of 6 marine overlaps:

- If protection is extended to **5** IBAs which are not protected hitherto in the Marshall Islands, those actions also improve protection status of endemic or nearly endemic (80-100% in the country) marine ecoregions that have a worldwide protection of less than 10%.
- If protection is extended to **1** IBA which is partially protected in the Marshall Islands, this action also improves the protection status of an endemic or nearly endemic (80-100% in the country) marine ecoregion that has a worldwide protection of less than 10%.

Site Number	Site Name	Total area (ha)	Ecoregion Number	T/M	Ecoregion Name	% in country	Overlap (ha)	Overlap (%)
<b>23787</b>	<b>Bokak Atoll</b>	<b>487.3</b>	<b>20153</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Marshall Islands</b>	<b>99.32</b>	<b>483.0</b>	<b>99.1</b>
<b>23787</b>	<b>Bokak Atoll</b>	<b>487.3</b>	<b>70104</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Eastern Micronesia tropical moist forests</b>	<b>39.78</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>
24510	Bikar Atoll	71.8	20153	M	Marshall Islands	99.32	71.8	100.0
<b>24511</b>	<b>Taka Atoll</b>	<b>148.8</b>	<b>20153</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Marshall Islands</b>	<b>99.32</b>	<b>148.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>24512</b>	<b>Enewetok Atoll</b>	<b>740.4</b>	<b>20153</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Marshall Islands</b>	<b>99.32</b>	<b>477.2</b>	<b>64.4</b>
<b>24512</b>	<b>Enewetok Atoll</b>	<b>740.4</b>	<b>70104</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Eastern Micronesia tropical moist forests</b>	<b>39.78</b>	<b>263.3</b>	<b>35.6</b>
<b>24513</b>	<b>Mili Atoll</b>	<b>5,915.9</b>	<b>20153</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Marshall Islands</b>	<b>99.32</b>	<b>5,720.6</b>	<b>96.7</b>
<b>24513</b>	<b>Mili Atoll</b>	<b>5,915.9</b>	<b>70104</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Eastern Micronesia tropical moist forests</b>	<b>39.78</b>	<b>195.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>24514</b>	<b>Northeast Islets, Majuro Atoll</b>	<b>5,198.8</b>	<b>20153</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Marshall Islands</b>	<b>99.32</b>	<b>5,152.2</b>	<b>99.1</b>
<b>24514</b>	<b>Northeast Islets, Majuro Atoll</b>	<b>5,198.8</b>	<b>70104</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Eastern Micronesia tropical moist forests</b>	<b>39.78</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>

### Overlaps between unprotected and partially protected AZEs and candidates Ecoregions for further protection<sup>6</sup>

There are no data for overlaps between unprotected and partially protected AZEs and candidates Ecoregions for further protection.

### Actions Identified in the PoWPA Action Plan<sup>7</sup>

There is no information available on actions identified in the PoWPA Action Plan.

### STAR GEF-5 Allocation and Utilization (All amounts in US\$)<sup>8</sup>

All focal areas are still within budget for Marshall Islands.

Focal Area	STAR GEF-5 Indicative allocation	Allocation utilized	PIFs cleared by CEO awaiting approval	Allocations remaining to be programmed
Biodiversity	2,020,000	1,949,377	0	70,623
Climate Change	2,000,000	1,930,112	0	69,888
Land Degradation	500,000	483,447	0	16,553
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,520,000</b>	<b>4,362,936</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>157,064</b>

<sup>6</sup> These data come from the superimposition of Alliance for Zero Extinction sites (AZEs) and terrestrial and marine ecological regions under existing protected areas recorded by the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) using the 2014 World Database of Protected Areas in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). [http://dopa-explorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa\\_explorer/](http://dopa-explorer.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa_explorer/); <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/siteprotection>.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/protected/implementation/actionplans/>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.thegef.org/gef/country\\_profile](https://www.thegef.org/gef/country_profile) (accessed April, 15 2016)

**STAR GEF-6 Allocation and Utilization (All amounts in US\$)<sup>9</sup>**

Focal Area	Indicative allocation	Allocation utilized	PIFs cleared by CEO awaiting approval	Allocations remaining to be programmed
Climate Change	2,000,000	0	0	2,000,000
Biodiversity	2,079,950	2,000,000	0	79,950
Land Degradation	500,000	0	0	500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,579,950</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,579,950</b>

**Paragraphs 1 (a), (b), and (g) and paragraph 3 of decision XI/24 on protected areas**

1. *Invites* Parties to:

(a) In line with paragraph 1(c) of decision X/31, integrate national action plans for the programme of work into updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans, which, in line with paragraphs 3 (c) and (d) of decision X/2, should be adopted as policy instruments and used as a primary framework for implementation and as the basis for securing the necessary financial support, including from national budgets and from bilateral, multilateral and other sources;

(b) Consistent with national circumstances, undertake major efforts, with appropriate support, to achieve all elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, and, in particular, to improve marine protected areas in all areas within their jurisdiction and to ensure that networks comprising both such marine protected areas and terrestrial protected areas are: representative (by completing ecological assessments and implementing the results); inclusive of areas important for biodiversity; managed effectively and equitably; connected and integrated into wider land- and seascapes; and inclusive of diversified types of governance for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;

(g) Align the protected area projects approved in the fourth, fifth and sixth replenishment periods of the Global Environment Facility, as well those supported by bilateral and other funding sources, with the actions identified in national action plans for the programme of work, so as to facilitate systematic monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and related Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.thegef.org/gef/country\\_profile](https://www.thegef.org/gef/country_profile) (accessed April, 15 2016)

3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies to facilitate the alignment of the development and implementation of protected area projects with the actions identified in national action plans for the programme of work, for example by clearly articulating the linkages with elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in project documents, with a view to facilitating the systematic monitoring and reporting of the results of those projects as they contribute to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and other related targets by Parties, and to maximize the contribution of such projects to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020;

**Relevant GEF-6 Programmes under Biodiversity Focal area for seeking funding for PA projects**

- BD1: Improving Sustainability of Protected Areas Systems
  - Program 1: Improving Financial Sustainability and Effective Management of the National Ecological Infrastructure
  - Program 2: Nature’s Last Stand: Expanding the Reach of the Global Protected Area Estate
- BD2: Reduce Threats to Globally Significant Biodiversity
  - Program 3: Preventing the Extinction of Known Threatened Species
- BD3: Sustainably Use Biodiversity
  - Program 6: Ridge to Reef+: Maintaining Integrity and Function of Globally Significant Coral Reef Ecosystems
- BD4: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in to Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors
  - Program 9: Managing the Human-Biodiversity Interface
  - Program 10: Integration of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Development and Finance Planning