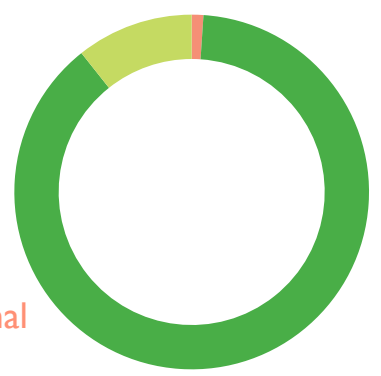
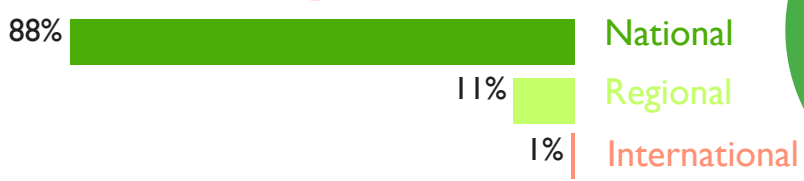


The Galápagos Islands



The Galápagos Islands, located off the coast of Ecuador, are a hotspot for rich biodiversity. Within Ecuador and the Galápagos, there are different types of protected park areas, such as national, regional, and internationally protected areas. The map below shows the various islands of the Galápagos.

Ecuadorian Land



Conservation Land Change

While Ecuador has many protected and conserved lands, the majority of this protected land area belongs to the Galápagos Islands. As visualized below, the Galápagos contains the most area of Ecuador's conserved parks. This land contains unique plant and animal species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. In 1978, the Galápagos Islands were declared a UNESCO World Heritage site, due to their natural beauty, biodiversity, volcanic origins, and immense ecological importance. Ecuador holds other important lands, too.

Conservation areas within the Galápagos Islands, as well as Ecuador, have ebbed and flowed over the years. Since land protection and conservation became important, many areas of conservation and protection have been added to the IUCN. In Ecuador, conservation area peaked in 2012 with 8 parks added.

