Protected Areas 2025

March 2026

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This overview on protected areas for 2025 provides information on the number and area (in hectares) of bp major operating sites[a] in or adjacent to protected areas and/or key biodiversity areas (KBA).

Type of protected area	Number of sites inside the boundary	Total overlap in hectares[b]	Number of sites adjacent (within 1km)[c]
World Heritage Site[d]	0	0	1
Ramsar site	0	0	2
IUCN Category Ia & Ib	0	0	1
IUCN Category II	1	0.3	1
IUCN Category III	0	0	1
IUCN Category IV	3	762	6
IUCN Category V	2	2.3	4
IUCN Category VI	0	0	0
IUCN Category – other[e]	2	2,172	4
Natura 2000 sites[f]	4	4.9	4
Key biodiversity areas	4	3,257	6

a The major operating sites in scope of 2025 protected areas reporting are:
- Refineries: Gelsenkirchen and Lingen (Germany), Rotterdam (Netherlands), Castellón (Spain), Cherry Point and Whiting (USA).
- Production operating assets in: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Türkiye region, Egypt, Indonesia, Mauritania and Senegal, North Sea (UK), Oman, Trinidad and Tobago, Gulf of America (USA), and bpx (USA).

A major operation may exist within and/or lie adjacent to more than one type of protected area. In 2025 nine out of 15 (60%) major operating sites were at least partly inside or adjacent (< 1km) to a protected area, while six out of 15 (40%) major operating sites were at least partly inside or adjacent to a KBA.

b This table is the result of a spatial analysis using known asset boundaries (pipeline right of ways, producing wells and site operational boundaries) in a GIS system. In some cases, data may change year on year without a change in bp asset footprint due to improved location data – for bp assets or protected areas – in relevant GIS systems or new protected area designations. The asset boundaries do not cover lease areas or concessions, only active operations. A buffer of 15m on either side was applied to linear infrastructure such as pipelines. Boundaries of protected areas, IUCN categories, World Heritage Sites (WHS), Ramsar sites, Natura 2000 sites and KBAs were provided by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Natura 2000, WHS and Ramsar site boundaries may overlap entirely or partially with one another or with IUCN protected area or KBA boundaries. Emerald Network sites have been excluded. Corrected for double counting, the total overlap of major operations with protected areas is approximately 2,940 hectares. The total overlap with KBAs is approximately 3,257 hectares.

c For the purpose of reporting, bp has defined adjacent as to within 1km distance of a protected area or KBA.

d This includes natural, mixed and cultural WHS. Formally designated buffer areas are considered adjacent to a designated WHS.

e In the World Database on Protected Areas, there is an additional category of IUCN protected area where:
- the IUCN management category is unknown and/or the data provider has not provided any related information [not reported]; or
- the IUCN management categories are considered to not be applicable to some designation types (this currently applies only to WHS and UNESCO MAB Reserves) [not applicable]; or
- The data provider has chosen not to use the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories [not assigned].

For a definition of the various categories of protected areas and KBAs, refer to the IUCN website for further information.

f This includes areas previously designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the United Kingdom that, post-Brexit, no longer form part of the EU's Natura 2000 ecological network.

In our **biodiversity position** we commit not to operate any new oil and gas exploration or production activities inside the boundary of officially inscribed UNESCO World Heritage Sites, or inside the boundary of Strict Nature Reserves (IUCN category Ia) or Wilderness Areas (IUCN category Ib) as listed on 1 January 2025 in the World Database on Protected Areas. While this refers to new activities, details on existing major operation sites inside, adjacent or near (<5km) such areas are provided in the table below.

Major operating site	Protected area	Name
Azerbaijan, Georgia and Türkiye	World Heritage Site	In Azerbaijan, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil and South Caucasus (SCP) gas pipelines cross the edge of the buffer zone (approximately 900 metres) of the Gobustan State Reserve of History and Art – a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In Georgia (GE), the Western Route Export Pipeline (WREP) oil pipeline is within 3km of the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta World Heritage Site.
	IUCN Ia & Ib	In Azerbaijan, the WREP is within 1km of the Garayazi State Nature Reserve (IUCN Ia) and within 5km of the Korchay State Nature Reserve (IUCN Ia). The BTC and SCP pipelines pass within 5km of the Garayazi State Nature Reserve (IUCN Ia) in Azerbaijan, and the Borjomi Strict Nature Reserve (IUCN Ia) in Georgia.
Gelsenkirchen refinery, Germany	World Heritage Site	Gelsenkirchen refinery facilities are within 5km of the Zollverein Coal Mine World Heritage cultural site.

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