

Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, COL

Forest Loss 2001–2025

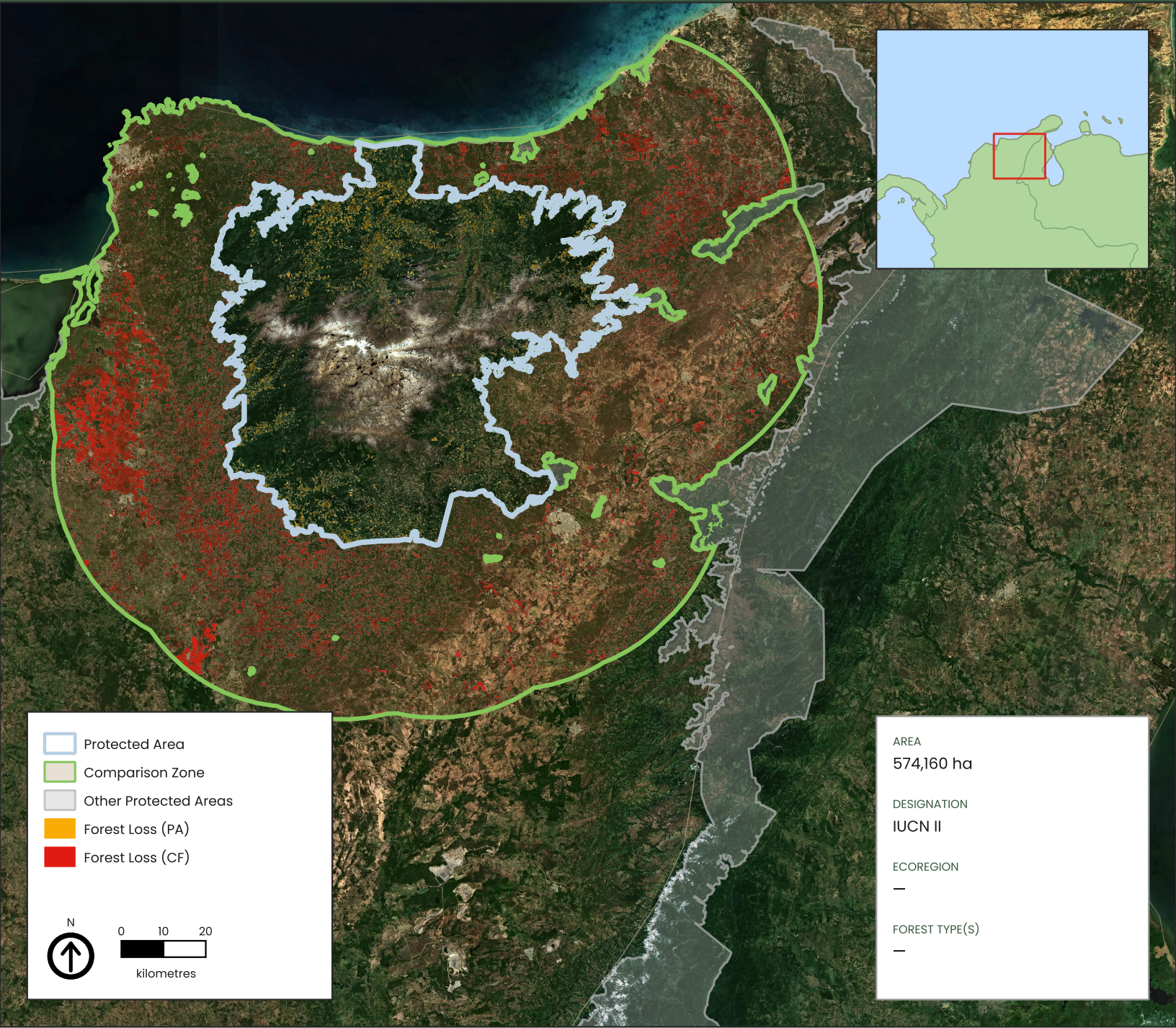
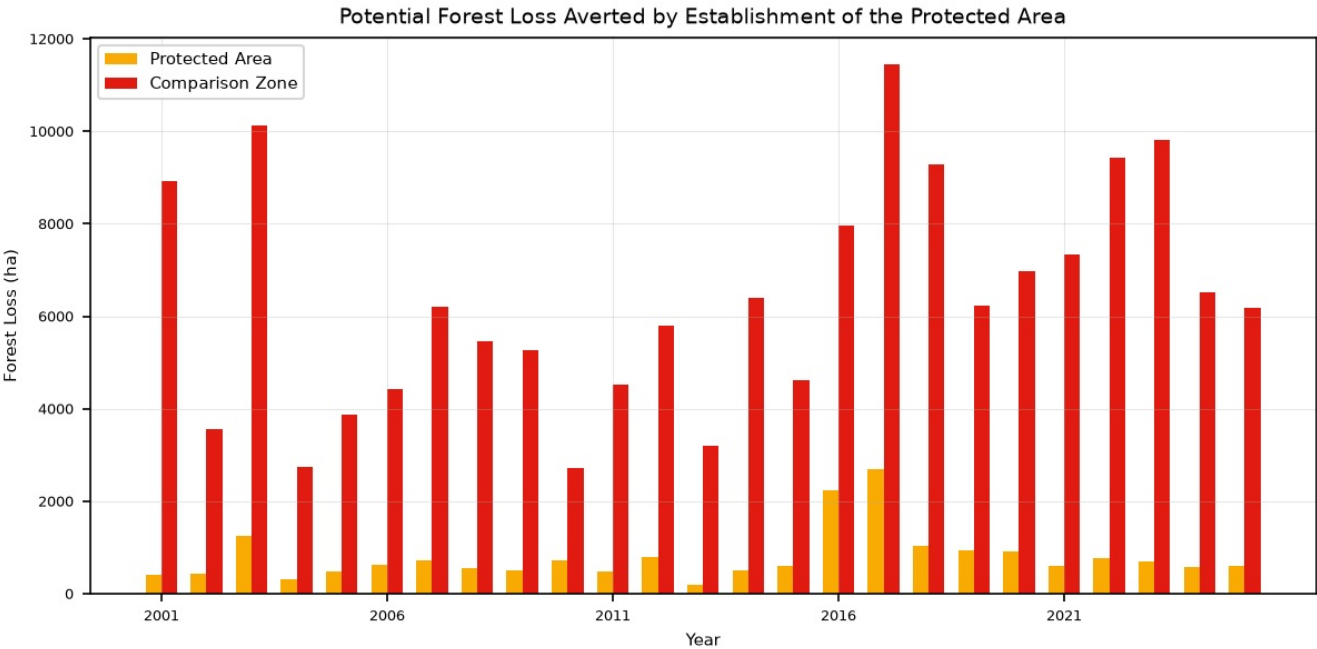


Image of protected area and/or unique wildlife

Overview of site (≈200 words)

Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta lies in Colombia, covering 574,160 hectares and designated IUCN II. The surrounding comparison area — a 40 km terrestrial buffer excluding other protected areas — spans 14,702 km².



Interpretation of Results (≈200 words)

Over the 2001–2025 study period, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta lost 57.0% of its forest cover on a normalized mean-loss-year basis, compared to 59.2% for the 40 km comparison zone, yielding a treatment effect of roughly 2.1% increased loss inside the protected area (equal to approximately 0.5 years of forest life lost). A canopy-height similarity of 59.8% indicates the comparison area is structurally well-matched to the protected forest.

Key Results

Protected Area Loss	57.0%
Comparison Zone Loss	59.2%
Treatment Effect	2.1%
Canopy Similarity	59.8%
Years Saved (est.)	0.5

Conclusion (≈100 words)

Protection status in Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta appears to have been ineffective at limiting deforestation within site boundaries. The protected area experienced 57.0% forest loss compared to 59.2% in the comparison area over the 2001–2025 study period.

Data Sources / Credits

- WDPa: World Database on Protected Areas — PA boundaries
- GFw/UMD: Hansen Global Forest Change v1.13 — tree cover loss (30 m)
- NASA FIRMS: MODIS TERRA/AQUA fire detections
- GSHHG v2.3.7: coastline mask for terrestrial clipping
- Natural Earth: basemap for geographic context