

WDPA Data Status Report

The World Database on Protected Areas

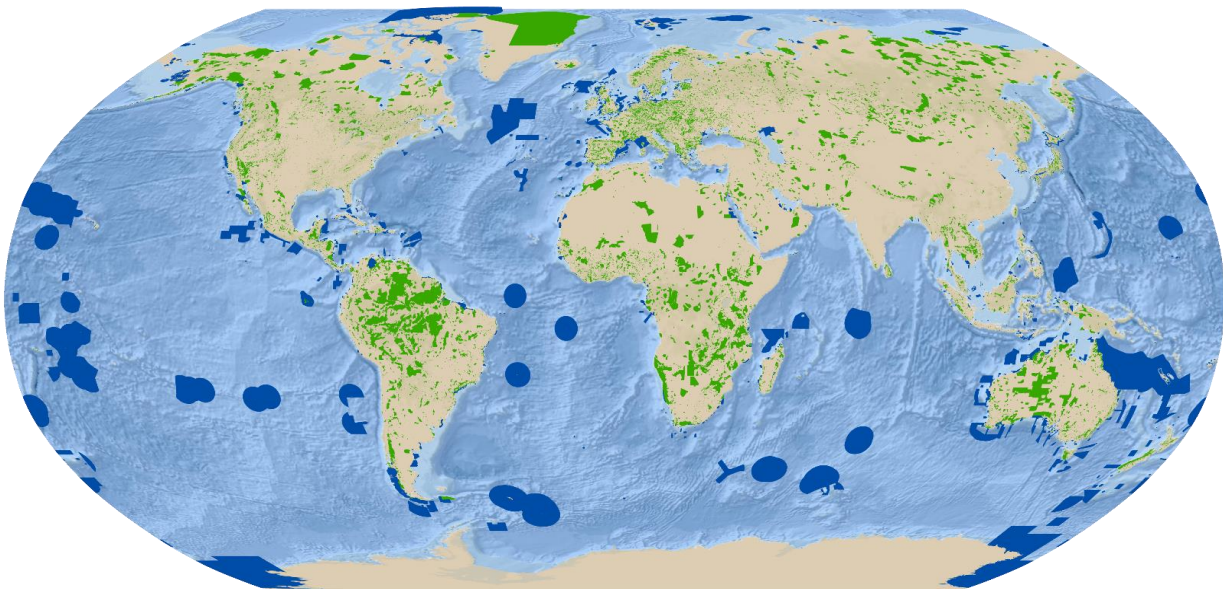
April 2021

About this Report and the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

The WDPA is the most comprehensive global dataset on terrestrial and marine protected areas, incorporating the official UN List of Protected Areas. The WDPA dataset is not necessarily a complete representation of all the protected areas which have been designated in country. The quality of the WDPA depends on the accessibility of accurate, comprehensive, up-to-date protected areas information from data holders.

This report describes the current status of data in the WDPA for all sites included in the April 2021 monthly release.

Map showing protected areas in the WDPA

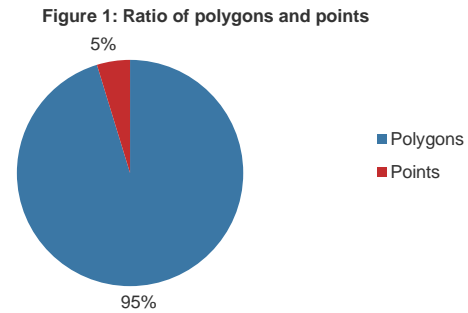


Source: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2021). Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) [On-line]. April 2021. Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC. Available at www.protectedplanet.net

 Terrestrial protected areas  Marine and coastal protected areas

Protected areas data in the WDPa

There are 258,079 protected area records stored in the WDPa. 224,253 are national-level protected areas with 33,753 designated under international and regional agreements or conventions. 95% of the data have boundaries in polygon format, with the remaining 5% depicted in point format (i.e. a single latitude and longitude point for the protected area). See Figure 1.



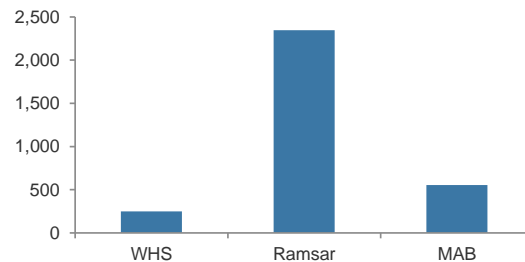
Of the 258,079 protected areas, 18,522 (7%) include a marine or coastal component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment.

Data for protected areas designated under international conventions and agreements

There are 3,150 protected areas in the WDPa designated under international conventions or agreements.

250 are World Heritage sites (WHS), 2,346 are Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, 554 are UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserves (MAB). See Figure 2.

Figure 2: Sites designated under international conventions and agreements



Data for protected areas designated under regional conventions and agreements

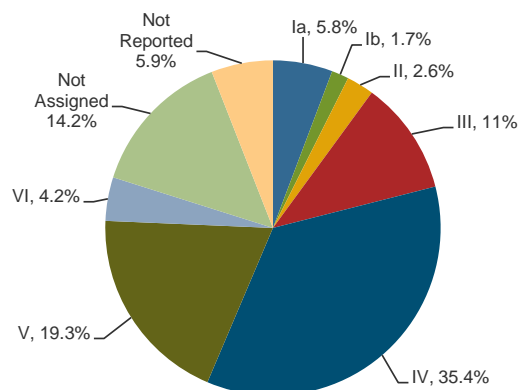
There are 30,603 protected areas in the WDPa designated under regional conventions or agreements. 29,854 are Natura2000 sites and 749 sites are designated under regional seas conventions.

Data for national-level protected areas

There are 224,253 national-level protected area records in the WDPa. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 179,144 of these records. The remaining 45,109 are recorded as Not Reported and Not Assigned.

Figure 3 shows the allocation of IUCN Management Categories across national-level protected area records in the WDPa (numbers of sites in each category are shown in Table 2 at the end of this report).

Figure 3: National-level protected areas by IUCN Management Category



Data for areas protected by local communities, indigenous people and private entities, through non-legal means

There are 73 records in the WDPa that are established through non-legal means.

Completeness of WDPA Data Attributes

The WDPA requires that a minimum set of information is provided with each protected area record. These data attributes are defined by the WDPA Data Standard.

Table 1 shows the extent to which key attributes have been reported by data providers for all protected area records in the WDPA.

Table 1: Completeness of selected attributes

Attribute	Completeness
IUCN Category	80%
Status (designated or proposed)	99.4%
Status Year	89%
Governance Type	93%
Management Authority	48%
Link to Management Plan	10%

The WDPA User Manual 1.6 can be viewed at http://wcmc.io/WDPA_Manual.

Data sources in the WDPA

Data for protected area records in the WDPA have been obtained or validated from over 400 sources.

Figure 4 shows the breakdown of when protected area records in the WDPA were last updated or validated.

Data for protected areas designated under international agreements and conventions have been sourced from the relevant convention secretariat. This includes: UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Ramsar Convention Secretariat and UNESCO Man and The Biosphere Programme.

Data for national-level protected areas in the WDPA have been sourced from national authorities wherever possible. Information may also be supplemented by data from other agencies or organisations working in each country. As part of the update process for national data, national authorities are given the opportunity to review, validate and, where necessary, edit all existing WDPA records for their country. All updates to the WDPA by national authorities take priority over other sources and are considered to be the authoritative version.

There are 762 records in the WDPA with no reported source.

Figure 4: Percentage of records updated or validated by year

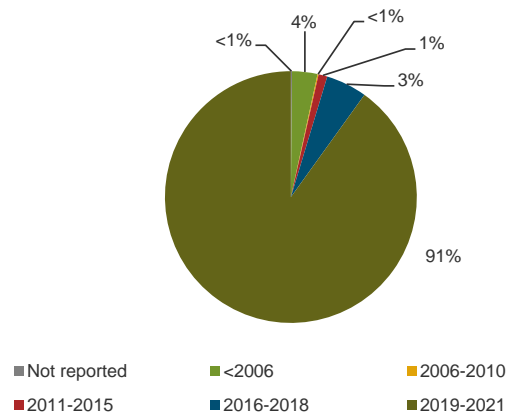


Table 2: WDPA Data (as of April 2021)

	Polygons	Points	Total
Realm			
Terrestrial	228,959	10,598	239,557
Coastal*	11,137	0	11,137
Marine	5,775	1,610	7,385
<i>* under validation by data providers</i>			
Status			
Designated	243,250	11,978	255,228
Proposed	1,202	206	1,408
Established	1,385	13	1,398
Status not reported	34	11	45
Areas designated under international conventions and agreements			
UNESCO World Heritage sites (natural or mixed)	250	0	250
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1,854	492	2,346
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	256	298	554
Areas designated under regional conventions and agreements			
ASEAN Heritage Park	9	0	9
Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)	177	0	177
Marine Protected Area (CCAMLR)	6	0	6
Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)	494	0	494
Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive)	24,185	0	24,185
Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)	5,669	0	5,669
Specially Protected Area (Cartagena Convention)	29	0	29
Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (Barcelona Conv.)	34	0	34
National-level protected areas: IUCN Management Category			
Ia: Strict Nature Reserve	12,828	67	12,895
Ib: Wilderness Area	3,708	1	3,709
II: National Park	5,790	119	5,909
III: Natural Monument or Feature	17,793	6,842	24,635
IV: Habitat / Species Management Area	77,625	1,684	79,309
V: Protected Landscape / Seascape	43,071	176	43,247
VI: Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	9,319	121	9,440
Not Assigned	30,557	1,216	31,773
Not Reported	12,157	1,179	13,336
Areas protected by local communities, indigenous people and private entities, through non-legal means			
Established	60	13	73
Total number of records in the WDPA			
	245,871	12,208	258,079

