

WDPA Data Status Report

The World Database on Protected Areas

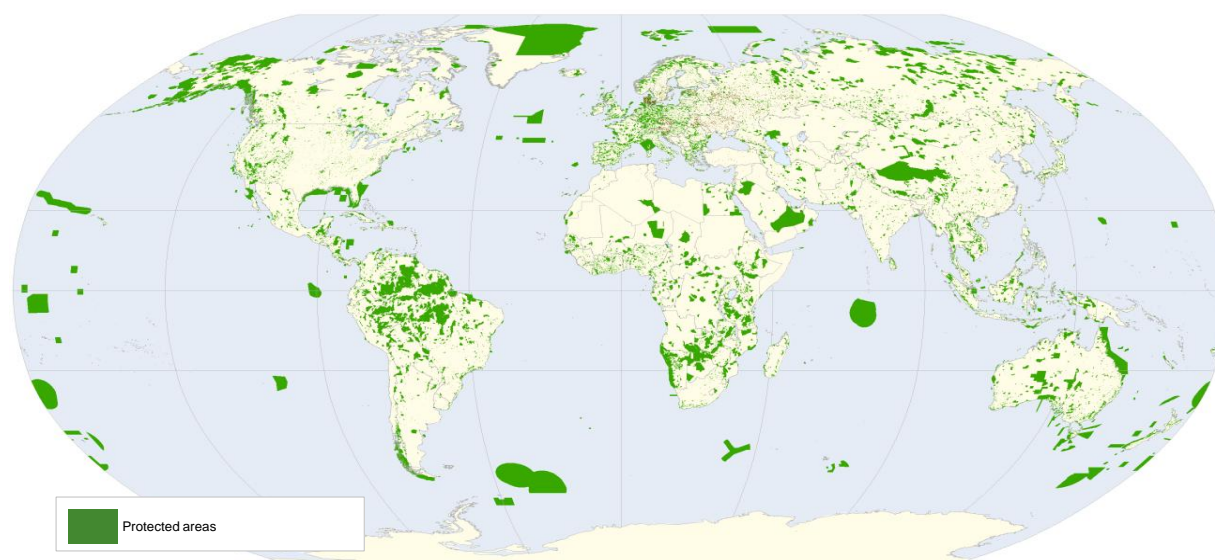
April 2014

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 2014 monthly release.

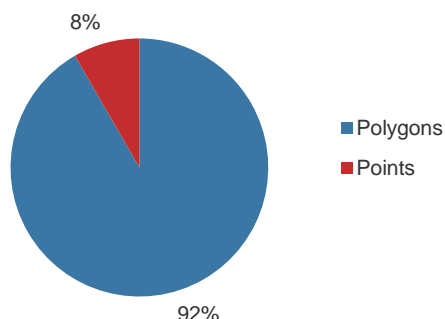
Map showing protected areas in the WDPA



Protected areas data in the WDPa

There are 191,800 protected area records stored in the WDPa, 162,465 are national-level protected areas with 29,334 designated under international and regional agreements or conventions. 92% of the data have boundaries in polygon format, with the remaining 8% depicted in point format (i.e. a single latitude and longitude point for the protected area). See Figure 1.

Figure 1: Ratio of polygons to points



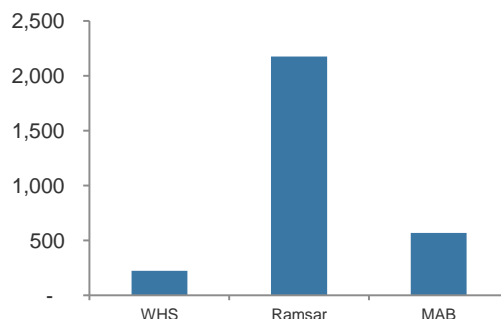
Of the 191,800 protected areas, 9,542 (5%) include a marine component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment.

Data for protected areas designated under international conventions and agreements

There are 2,966 protected areas in the WDPa designated under international conventions or agreements.

222 are World Heritage Sites (WHS), 2,175 are Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, 569 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

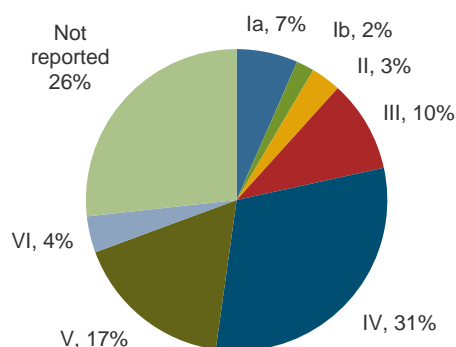
There are 26,368 protected areas in the WDPa designated under regional conventions or agreements. 26,170 are Natura2000 sites and 198 sites are designated under regional seas conventions.

Data for national-level protected areas

There are 162,465 national-level protected area records in the WDPa. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 119,025 of these records. The remaining 43,440 are recorded as Not Reported.

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



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	73%
Status (designated or proposed)	100%
Status Year	79%
Governance Type	71%
Management Authority	29%
Link to Management Plan	100.0%

The Data Standard can be viewed at www.unep-wcmc.org/world-database-on-protected-areas-wdpa-data-standards_966.html

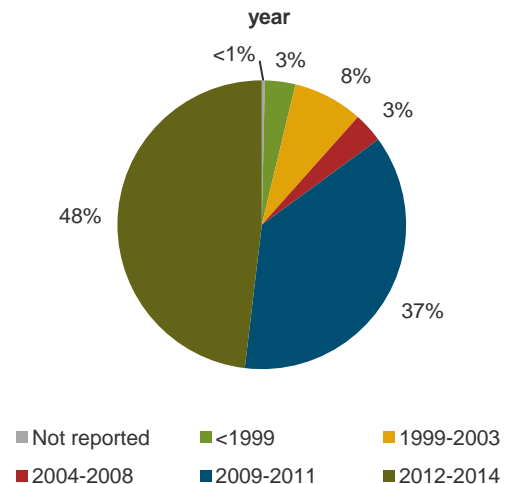
Data sources in the WDPA

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.

Figure 4: Percentage of records updated or validated by year



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 1,981 records in the WDPA with no reported source.

Table 2: WDPA Data (as of April 2014)

	Polygons	Points	Total
Realm: terrestrial or marine			
Terrestrial	168009	14249	182258
Marine (partially or completely)	7820	1722	9542
Status: designated or proposed			
Designated	173604	15061	188665
Proposed	1949	819	2768
Status not reported	275	88	363
International Protected Areas			
	1643	1323	2966
UNESCO World Heritage Sites	222	0	222
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1245	930	2175
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	176	393	569
Regional Protected Areas			
	26322	34	26368
Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)	159	0	159
Marine Protected Area (CCAMLR)	1	0	1
Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)	6	0	6
Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive)	20892	30	20922
Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)	5244	4	5248
Specially Protected Area of Marine Importance (Barcelona Conveni	20	12	32
National Protected Areas: IUCN Management Category			
	147863	14602	162465
Ia: Strict Nature Reserve	10434	237	10671
Ib: Wilderness Area	3101	11	3112
II: National Park	4997	227	5224
III: National Monument or Feature	10366	5672	16038
IV: Habitat/species management area	47779	2006	49785
V: Protected Area with sustainable use	26430	1431	27861
VI: Protected Landscape/Seascape	5897	437	6334
Not Reported (NR)	38859	4581	43440
Total number of records in the WDPA			
	175829	15971	191800

WDPA Quality Indicators

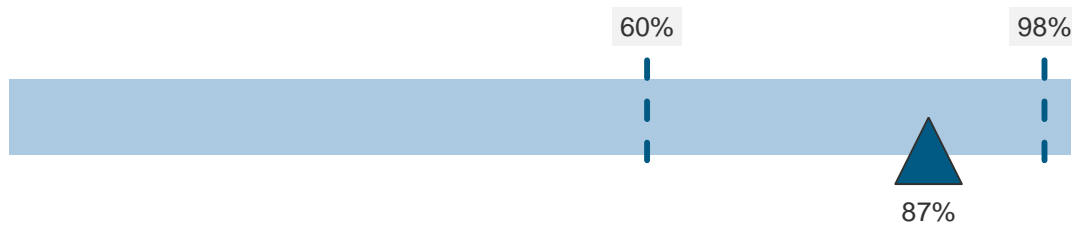
The percentage of records with boundaries in polygon format

The WDPA stores all records with spatial (location) data. These data can be polygons which represent the boundaries of the protected area, or a single latitude/longitude point which shows the general location of the protected area. This indicator shows the percentage of records with boundaries - the preferred spatial data.



The percentage of data attributes which have been reported by the data provider

Each record in the WDPA has 19 fields for which data attributes are requested. This indicator shows the weighted percentage of data fields which have been reported, based on the minimum, core and complete attributes.



The percentage of records updated or validated by the data provider in the last 5 years

UNEP-WCMC sets a target to update each record in the WDPA at least every five years. This indicator shows the percentage of records updated in the last 5 years (since 2009).



The percentage of records where the area of the polygon is within 5% of the area reported

The area (km²) reported for a protected area may sometimes differ from the area of the boundary polygon provided, possibly indicating a discrepancy within the information submitted. This indicator shows the percentage of records where the area of the polygon is within a threshold of 5% of the area reported. The threshold allows for differences due to projections and software used for calculating the GIS area.

