

WDPA Data Status Report

The World Database on Protected Areas

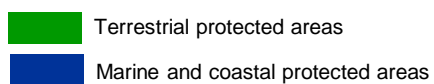
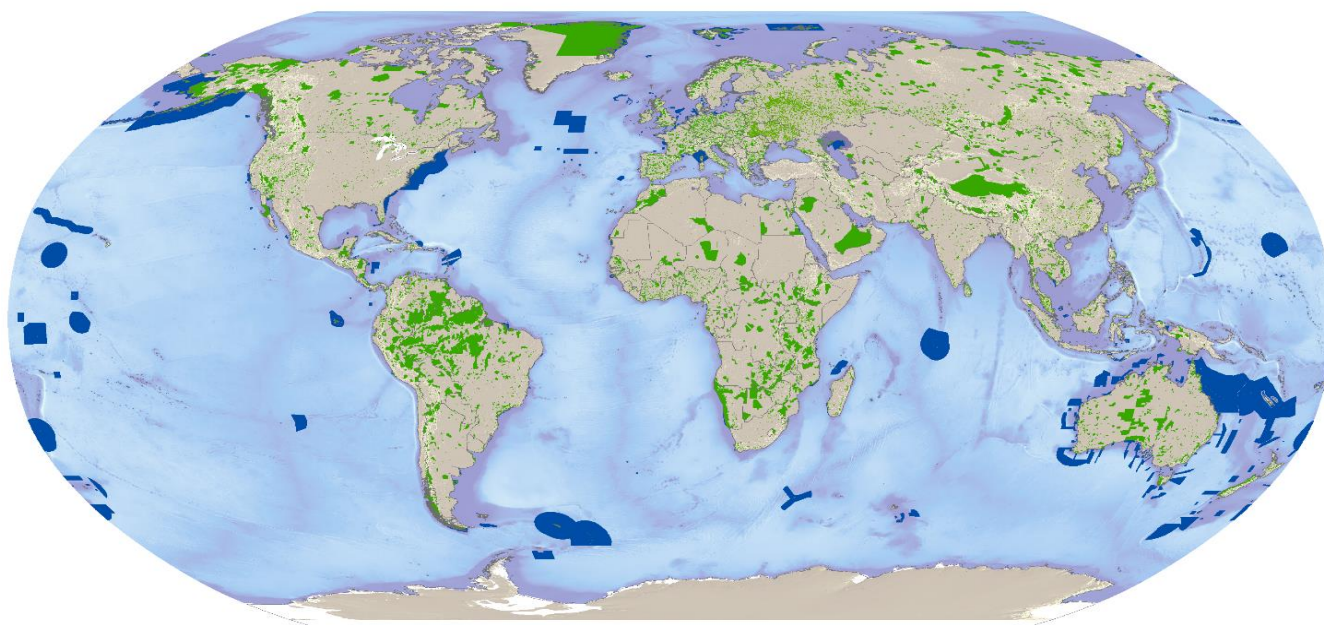
December 2015

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.

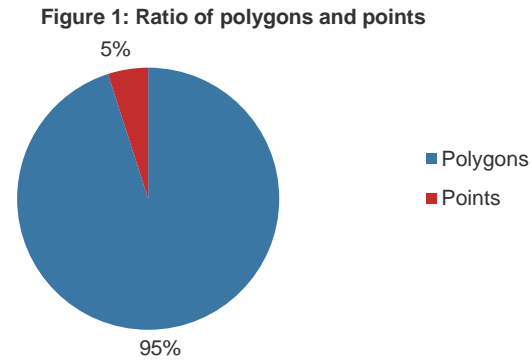
This report describes the current status of data in the WDPA for all sites included in the December 2015 monthly release.

Map showing protected areas in the WDPA



Protected areas data in the WDPa

There are 207,247 protected area records stored in the WDPa, 174,905 are national-level protected areas with 32,342 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.

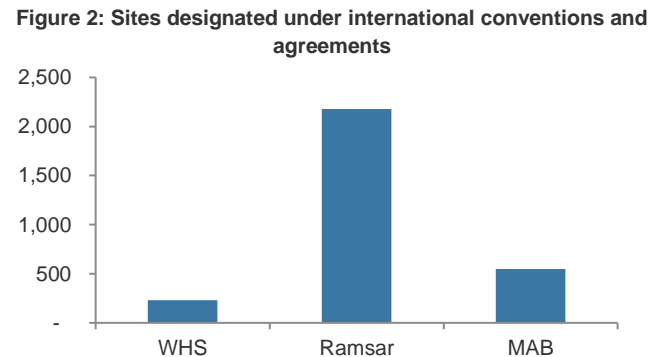


Of the 207,247 protected areas, 18,278 (9%) include a marine or coastal component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment.

Data for protected areas designated under international conventions and agreements

There are 2,954 protected areas in the WDPa designated under international conventions or agreements.

229 are World heritage sites (WHS), 2,177 are Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, 548 are UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserves (MAB). See Figure 2.



Data for protected areas designated under regional conventions and agreements

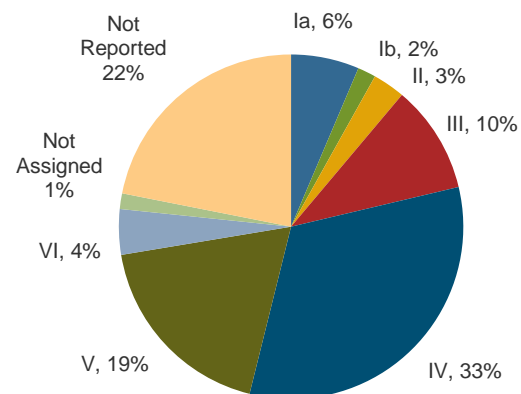
There are 29,388 protected areas in the WDPa designated under regional conventions or agreements. 29,190 are Natura2000 sites and 198 sites are designated under regional seas conventions.

Data for national-level protected areas

There are 174,905 national-level protected area records in the WDPa. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 134,056 of these records. The remaining 40,849 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



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	77%
Status (designated or proposed)	99.9%
Status Year	88%
Governance Type	89%
Management Authority	80%
Link to Management Plan	7%

The WDPA User Manual 1.1 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

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 1,738 records in the WDPA with no reported source.

Figure 4: Percentage of records updated or validated by year

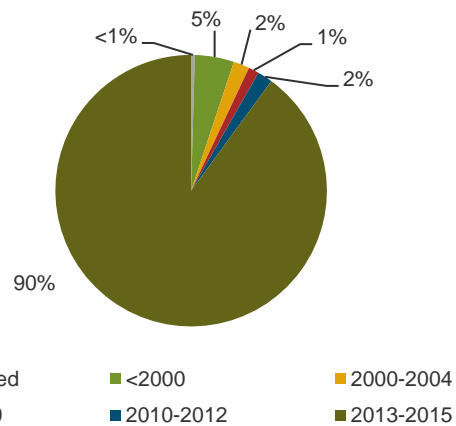


Table 2: WDPA Data (as of December 2015)

	Polygons	Points	Total
Realm			
Terrestrial	179,871	9,098	188,969
Coastal*	12,791	0	12,791
Marine	4,298	1,189	5,487
<i>* under validation by data providers</i>			
Status			
Designated	195,067	9,735	204,802
Proposed	1,730	499	2,229
Established	0	1	1
Status not reported	163	52	215
Areas designated under international conventions and agreements			
UNESCO World Heritage Sites	229	0	229
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1,281	896	2,177
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	182	366	548
Areas designated under regional conventions and agreements			
Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)	153	0	153
Marine Protected Area (CCAMLR)	1	0	1
Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)	6	0	6
Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive)	23,651	0	23,651
Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)	5,539	0	5,539
Specially Protected Area (Cartagena Convention)	6	0	6
Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (Barcelona Conv.)	23	9	32
National-level protected areas : IUCN Management Category			
Ia: Strict Nature Reserve	11,053	135	11,188
Ib: Wilderness Area	2,988	0	2,988
II: National Park	5,164	133	5,297
III: Natural Monument or Feature	14,089	3,683	17,772
IV: Habitat / Species Management Area	55,448	1,539	56,987
V: Protected Landscape / Seascape	31,086	1,276	32,362
VI: Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	7,301	161	7,462
Not Assigned	2,560	0	2,560
Not Reported	36,200	2,089	38,289
Total number of records in the WDPA			
	196,960	10,287	207,247

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 25 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 January 2010).



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.



0% 100% The range of scores for individual countries in the WDPA, with the lowest and highest percentages.
▲ Overall score for the WDPA