

WDPA Data Status Report

The World Database on Protected Areas

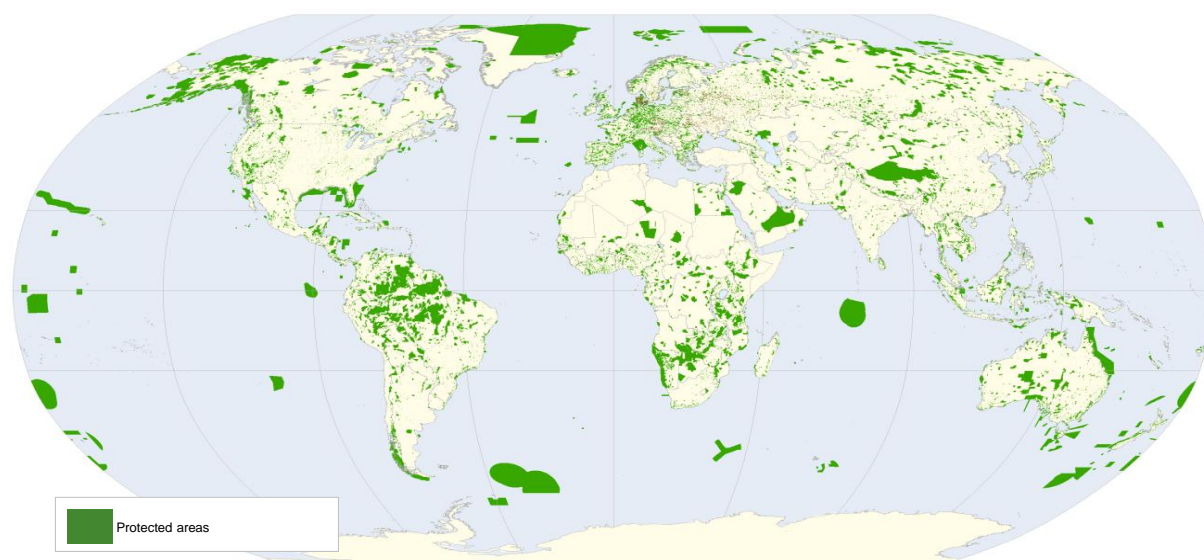
February 2014

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 a country. The quality of the data depends on the accessibility of accurate, comprehensive, up-to-date protected areas information holders.

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

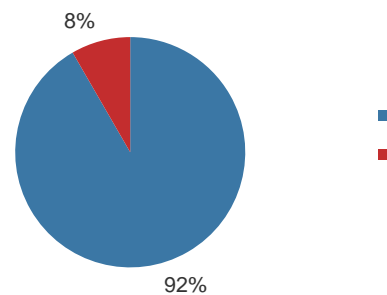
Map showing protected areas in the WDPA



Protected areas data in the WDPA

There are 191,852 protected area records stored in the WDPA, 162,493 are national-level protected areas with 29,359 designated under international 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 point

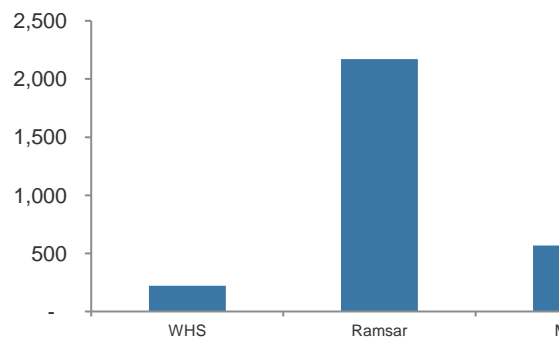


Of the 191,852 protected areas, 9,545 (5%) include a marine component. These protected areas are either partially or completely within the marine environment.

Data for protected areas designated under international conventions and agreements

There are 29,359 protected areas in the WDPA designated under international conventions or agreements; 222 are World Heritage Sites (WHS), 2,170 are Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, 569 are UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserves (MAB) and 26,170 are Natura2000 sites. There are also 224 sites designated under other conventions and agreements. See Figure 2

Figure 2: Sites designated under international cc agreements

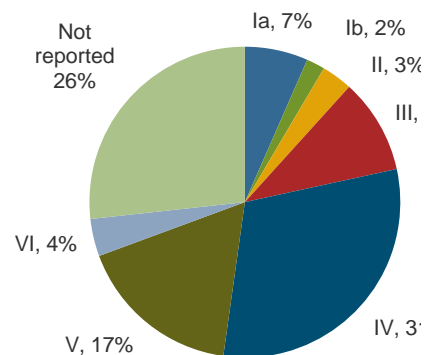


Data for national-level protected areas

There are 162,493 national-level protected area records in the WDPA. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 119,052 of these records. The remaining 43,441 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 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
IUCN Category
Status (designated or proposed)
Status Year
Governance Type
Management Authority
Link to Management Plan

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.

Data for national-level protected areas in the WDPa have been sourced from national authorities where possible. Information may also be supplemented by data from other agencies or organisations within 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 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.

Figure 4: Percentage of records updated or validated

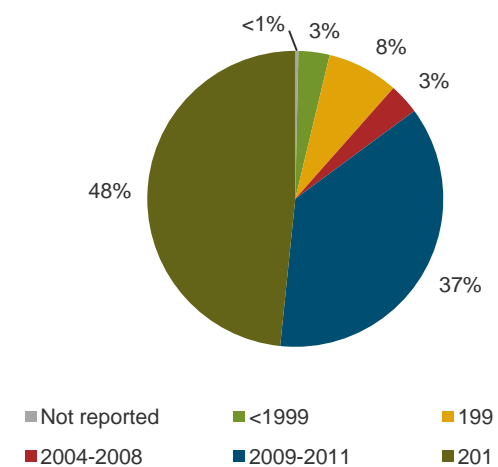


Table 2: WDPa Data (as of February 2014)

	Polygons	Points
Realm: terrestrial or marine		
Terrestrial	168037	14270
Marine (partially or completely)	7814	1731
Status: designated or proposed		
Designated	173627	15082
Proposed	1949	819
Status not reported	275	88
International Protected Areas		
	27960	1399
UNESCO World Heritage Sites	222	0
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1214	960
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	176	393
ASEAN Heritage Park	26	0
Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)	159	0
Marine Protected Area (CCAMLR)	1	0
Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)	6	0
Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive)	20892	30
Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)	5244	4
Specially Protected Area of Marine Importance (Barcelona Convention)	20	12
National Protected Areas: IUCN Management Category		
	147891	14602
Ia: Strict Nature Reserve	10442	237
Ib: Wilderness Area	3103	11
II: National Park	4999	227
III: National Monument or Feature	10377	5672
IV: Habitat/species management area	47781	2006
V: Protected Area with sustainable use	26433	1431
VI: Protected Landscape/Seascape	5896	437
Not Reported (NR)	38860	4581
Total number of records in the WDPa		
	175851	16001

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 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 format.



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 optional 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 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

,
mplete
the WDPA
n from data

ry 2014

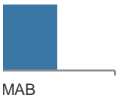
ts

■ Polygons

■ Points

is may be

ventions and



Management

6

10%

1%

Completeness
73%
100%
79%
93%
21%
2.1%

dated by year

09-2003

12-2014

is wherever
working in
opportunity to
ates to the
oritative

Total
182307
9545
188709
2768
363
29359
222
2174
569
26
159
1
6
20922
5248
32
162493
10679
3114
5226
16049
49787
27864
6333
43441
191852

present the
location of the
spatial data.

0%

shows the
complete

indicator

,

d

ry polygon
vs the
orted. The

pa.

0%

||