

WDPA Data Status Report

The World Database on Protected Areas

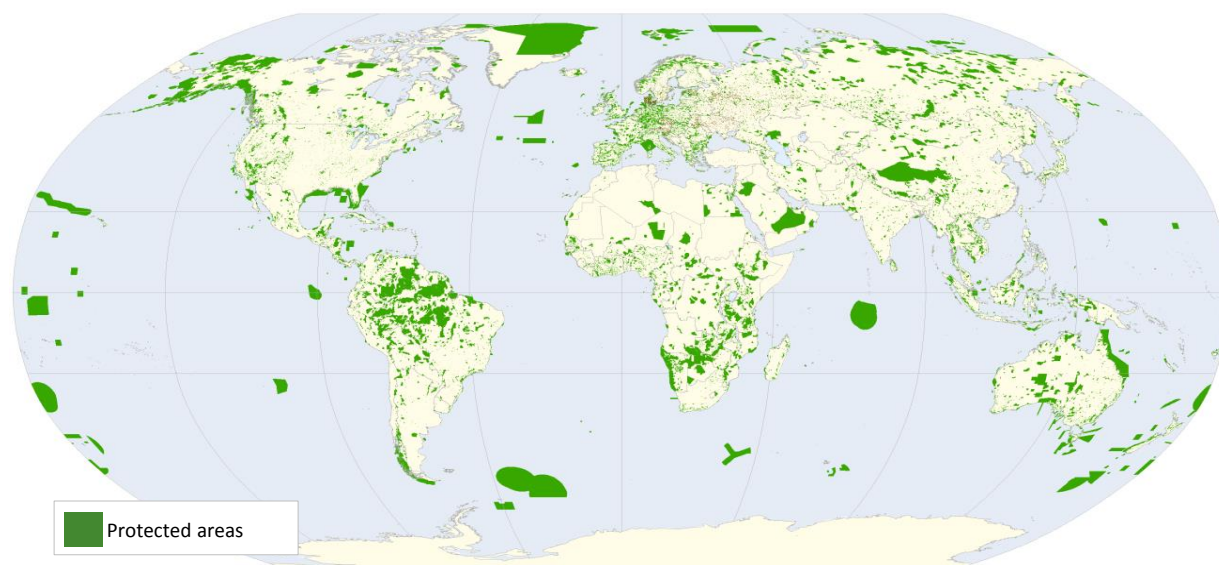
January 2015

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 January 2015 monthly release.

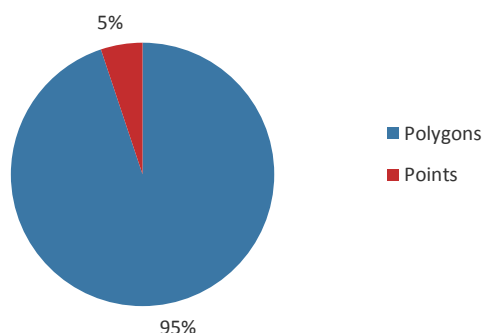
Map showing protected areas in the WDPA



Protected areas data in the WDPA

There are 206,585 protected area records stored in the WDPA, 174,355 are national-level protected areas with 32,230 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.

Figure 1: Ratio of polygons to points



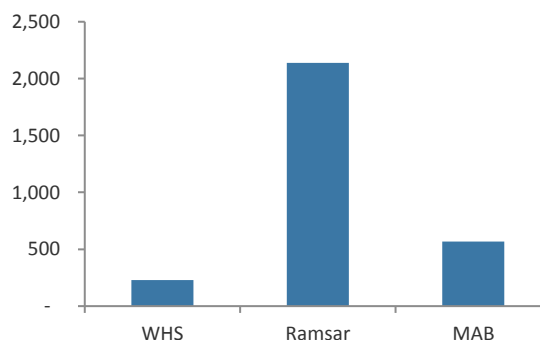
Of the 206,585 protected areas, 12,396 (6%) include a marine component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment.

Data for protected areas designated under international conventions and agreements

There are 2,935 protected areas in the WDPA designated under international conventions or agreements.

228 are World Heritage Sites (WHS), 2,139 are Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, 568 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

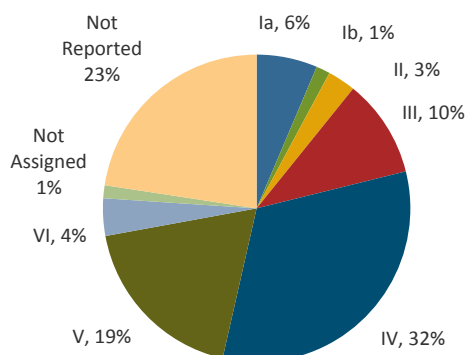
There are 29,295 protected areas in the WDPA designated under regional conventions or agreements. 29,097 are Natura2000 sites and 198 sites are designated under regional seas conventions.

Data for national-level protected areas

There are 174,355 national-level protected area records in the WDPA. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 132,450 of these records. The remaining 39,345 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	76%
Status (designated or proposed)	100%
Status Year	99%
Governance Type	86%
Management Authority	100%
Link to Management Plan	2.9%

The Data Standard can be viewed at <http://wcmc.io/90f3>.

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 31,613 records in the WDPA with no reported source.

Figure 4: Percentage of records updated or validated by year

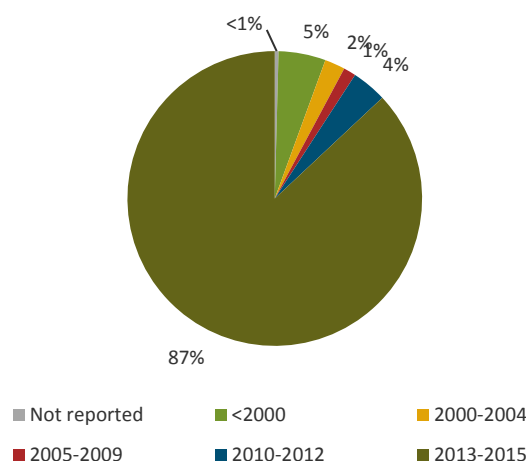


Table 2: WDPA Data (as of January 2015)

	Polygons	Points	Total
Realm: terrestrial or marine			
Terrestrial	184911	9276	194187
Marine (partially or completely)	11089	1307	12396
Status: designated or proposed			
Designated	194090	9911	204001
Proposed	1740	605	2345
Status not reported	170	67	237
International Protected Areas	1682	1253	2935
UNESCO World Heritage Sites	228	0	228
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1261	878	2139
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	193	375	568
Regional Protected Areas	29286	9	29295
Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)	153	0	153
Cartagena Special Protected Area	6	0	6
Marine Protected Area (CCAMLR)	1	0	1
Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)	6	0	6
Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive)	23608	0	23608
Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)	5489	0	5489
Specially Protected Area of Marine Importance (Barcelona Conv.)	23	9	32
National Protected Areas: IUCN Management Category	165030	9321	174351
Ia: Strict Nature Reserve	10987	146	11133
Ib: Wilderness Area	2553	2	2555
II: National Park	4983	150	5133
III: National Monument or Feature	14305	3680	17985
IV: Habitat/species management area	54905	1562	56467
V: Protected Area with sustainable use	31052	1277	32329
VI: Protected Landscape/Seascape	6676	172	6848
Not Assigned	2556	0	2556
Not Reported	37013	2332	39345
Total number of records in the WDPA	196000	10583	206585

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 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.

