

## WDPA Data Status Report

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# The World Database on Protected Areas

March 2015

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

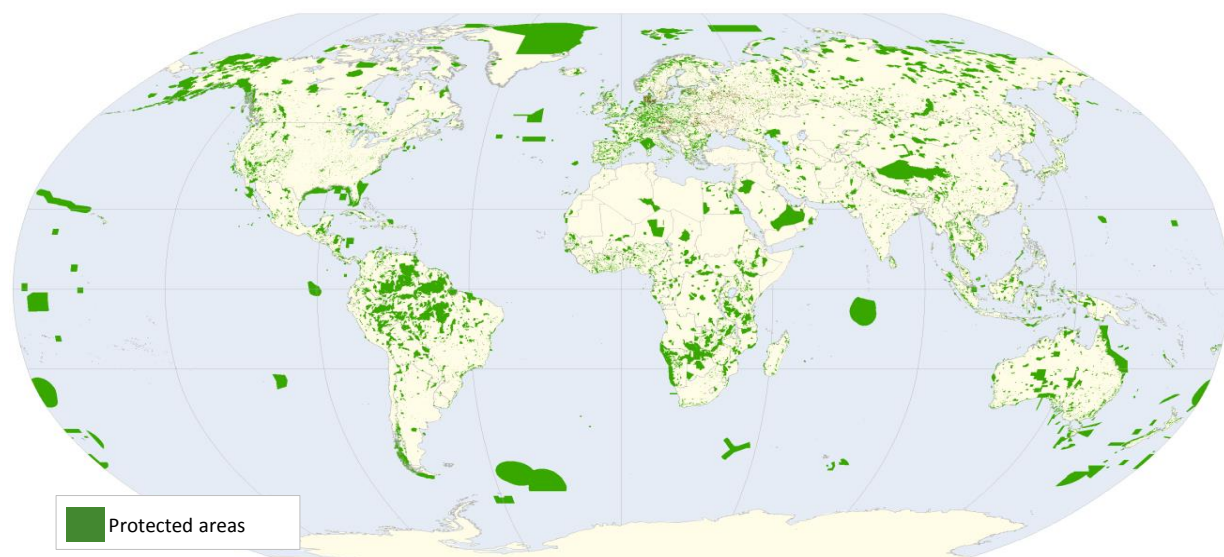
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The WDPA is the most comprehensive global dataset on terrestrial and marine protected areas, incorporating the official UN List of Protected Areas. The WDPA dataset is not necessarily a complete representation of all the protected areas which have 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 March 2015 monthly release.

### Map showing protected areas in the WDPA

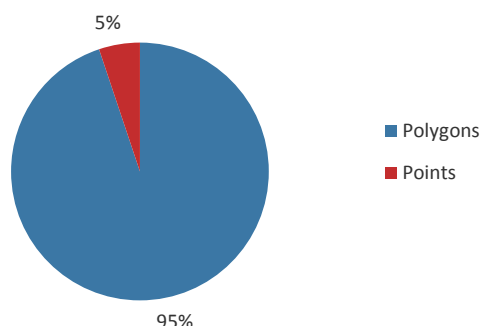
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## Protected areas data in the WDPa

There are 206,589 protected area records stored in the WDPa, 174,322 are national-level protected areas with 32,267 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



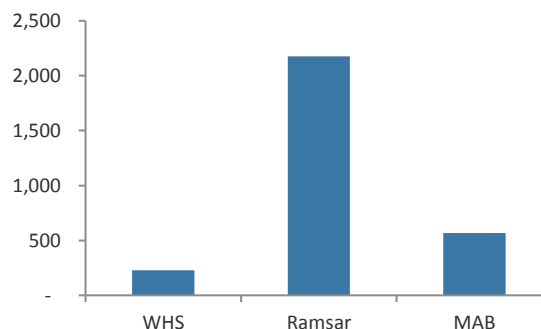
Of the 206,589 protected areas, 12,546 (6%) include a marine or coastal component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment.

### Data for protected areas designated under international conventions and agreements

There are 2,972 protected areas in the WDPa designated under international conventions or agreements.

228 are World Heritage Sites (WHS), 2,176 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

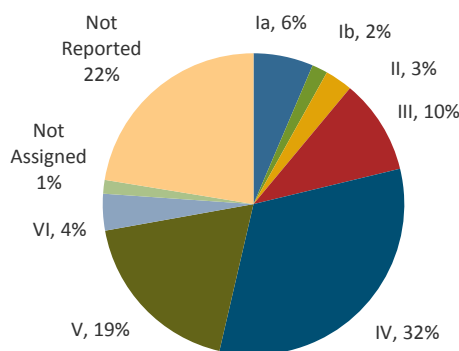
There are 29,295 protected areas in the WDPa designated under regional conventions or agreements. 29,097 are Natura2000 sites and 198 sites are designated under regional seas conventions.

### Data for national-level protected areas

There are 174,322 national-level protected area records in the WDPa. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 132,667 of these records. The remaining 39,099 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	86%
Governance Type	86%
Management Authority	79%
Link to Management Plan	3.5%

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

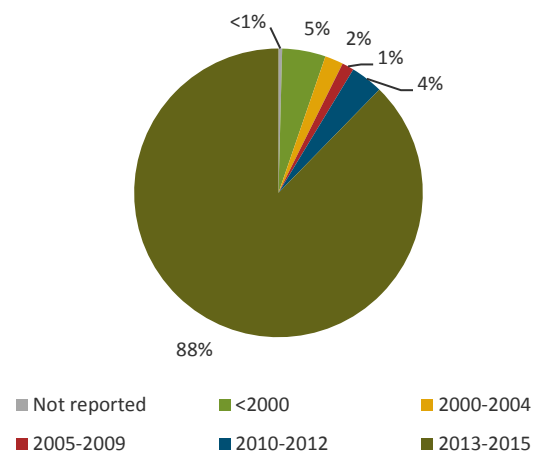
## Data sources in the WDPa

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.

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 31,033 records in the WDPa with no reported source.

**Table 2: WDPA Data (as of March 2015)**

	Polygons	Points	Total
<b>Realm</b>			
Terrestrial	184,743	9,300	<b>194,043</b>
Coastal*	3,572	0	<b>3,572</b>
Marine	7,663	1,311	<b>8,974</b>
* Under validation			
<b>Status: designated or proposed</b>			
Designated	194,163	9,943	<b>204,106</b>
Proposed	1,647	601	<b>2,248</b>
Status not reported	168	67	<b>235</b>
<b>International Protected Areas</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>2,972</b>
UNESCO World Heritage Sites	228	0	<b>228</b>
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1,267	909	<b>2,176</b>
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	194	374	<b>568</b>
<b>Regional Protected Areas</b>	<b>29,286</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29,295</b>
Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)	153	0	<b>153</b>
Cartagena Special Protected Area	6	0	<b>6</b>
Marine Protected Area (CCAMLR)	1	0	<b>1</b>
Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)	6	0	<b>6</b>
Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive)	23,608	0	<b>23,608</b>
Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)	5,489	0	<b>5,489</b>
Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (Barcelona Conv.)	23	9	<b>32</b>
<b>National Protected Areas: IUCN Management Category</b>	<b>165,003</b>	<b>9,319</b>	<b>174,322</b>
Ia: Strict Nature Reserve	11,035	146	<b>11,181</b>
Ib: Wilderness Area	2,935	2	<b>2,937</b>
II: National Park	4,994	150	<b>5,144</b>
III: National Monument or Feature	14,067	3,680	<b>17,747</b>
IV: Habitat/species management area	54,915	1,568	<b>56,483</b>
V: Protected Area with sustainable use	31,052	1,277	<b>32,329</b>
VI: Protected Landscape/Seascape	6,675	171	<b>6,846</b>
Not Assigned	2,556	0	<b>2,556</b>
Not Reported	36,774	2,325	<b>39,099</b>
<b>Total number of records in the WDPA</b>	<b>195,978</b>	<b>10,611</b>	<b>206,589</b>

