

WDPA Data Status Report

The World Database on Protected Areas

March 2017

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 March 2017 monthly release.

Map showing protected areas in the WDPA

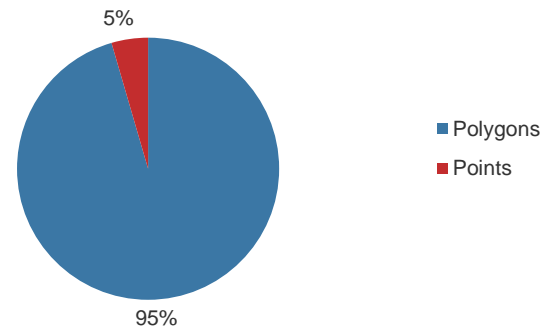


 Terrestrial protected areas  Marine and coastal protected areas

Protected areas data in the WDPa

There are 222,816 protected area records stored in the WDPa, 189,871 are national-level protected areas with 32,945 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 and points



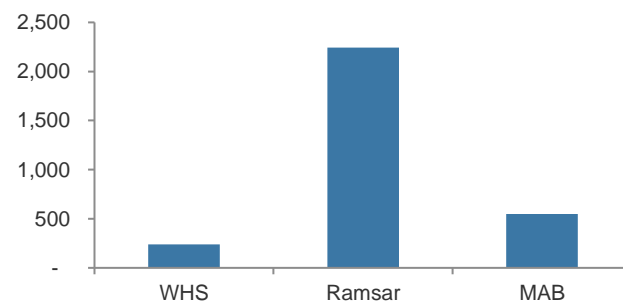
Of the 222,816 protected areas, 15,664 (7%) include a marine or coastal component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment.

Data for protected areas designated under international conventions and agreements

There are 3,031 protected areas in the WDPa designated under international conventions or agreements.

238 are World Heritage sites (WHS), 2,244 are Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, 549 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

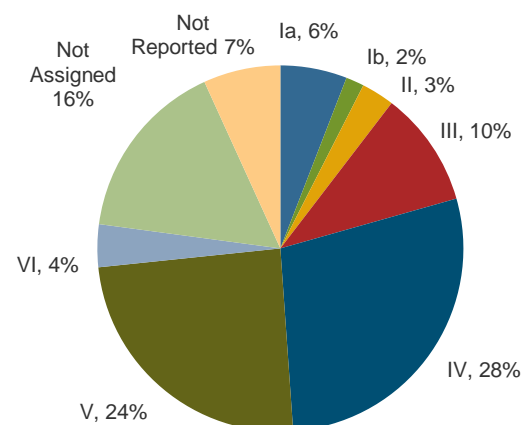
There are 29,914 protected areas in the WDPa designated under regional conventions or agreements. 29,282 are Natura2000 sites and 632 sites are designated under regional seas conventions.

Data for national-level protected areas

There are 189,871 national-level protected area records in the WDPa. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 146,430 of these records. The remaining 43,441 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	89%
Governance Type	91%
Management Authority	83%
Link to Management Plan	7%

The WDPA User Manual 1.4 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 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 1,315 records in the WDPA with no reported source.

Figure 4: Percentage of records updated or validated by year

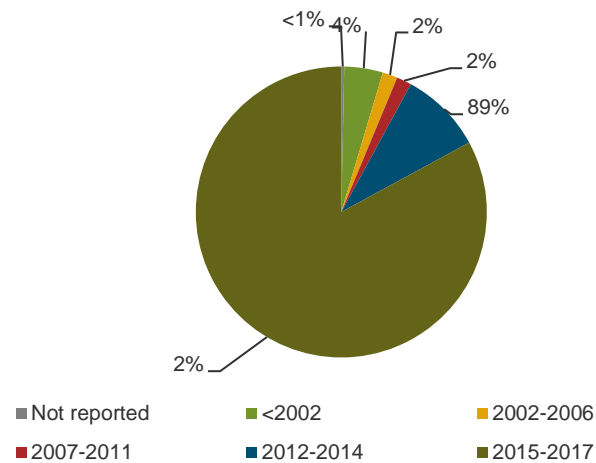


Table 2: WDPA Data (as of March 2017)

	Polygons	Points	Total
Realm			
Terrestrial	198,214	8,938	207,152
Coastal*	10,249	264	10,513
Marine	4,314	837	5,151
<i>* under validation by data providers</i>			
Status			
Designated	211,268	9,530	220,798
Proposed	1,394	464	1,858
Established	0	1	1
Status not reported	115	44	159
Areas designated under international conventions and agreements			
UNESCO World Heritage sites (natural / mixed)	238	0	238
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1,400	844	2,244
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	216	333	549
Areas designated under regional conventions and agreements			
Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)	174	0	174
Marine Protected Area (CCAMLR)	1	0	1
Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)	417	0	417
Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive)	23,702	0	23,702
Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)	5,580	0	5,580
Specially Protected Area (Cartagena Convention)	6	0	6
Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (Barcelona Conv.)	34	0	34
National-level protected areas : IUCN Management Category			
Ia: Strict Nature Reserve	11,066	115	11,181
Ib: Wilderness Area	3,049	1	3,050
II: National Park	5,398	119	5,517
III: Natural Monument or Feature	15,707	3,677	19,384
IV: Habitat / Species Management Area	52,167	1,512	53,679
V: Protected Landscape / Seascape	45,163	1,296	46,459
VI: Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	7,006	154	7,160
Not Assigned	30,510	0	30,510
Not Reported	10,943	1,988	12,931
Total number of records in the WDPA			
	212,777	10,039	222,816

WDPA Quality Indicators

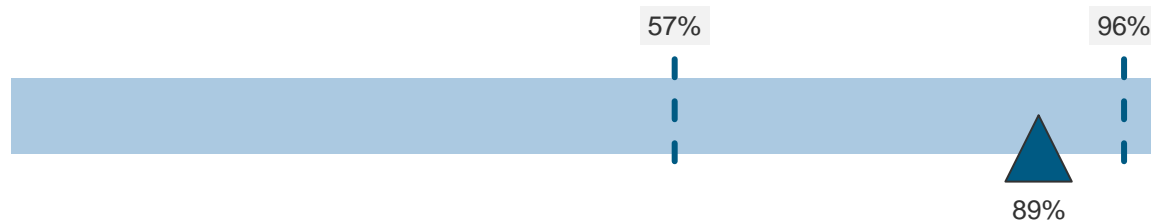
The percentage of records with boundaries in polygon format

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 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 2012).



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