

WDPA Data Status Report

The World Database on Protected Areas

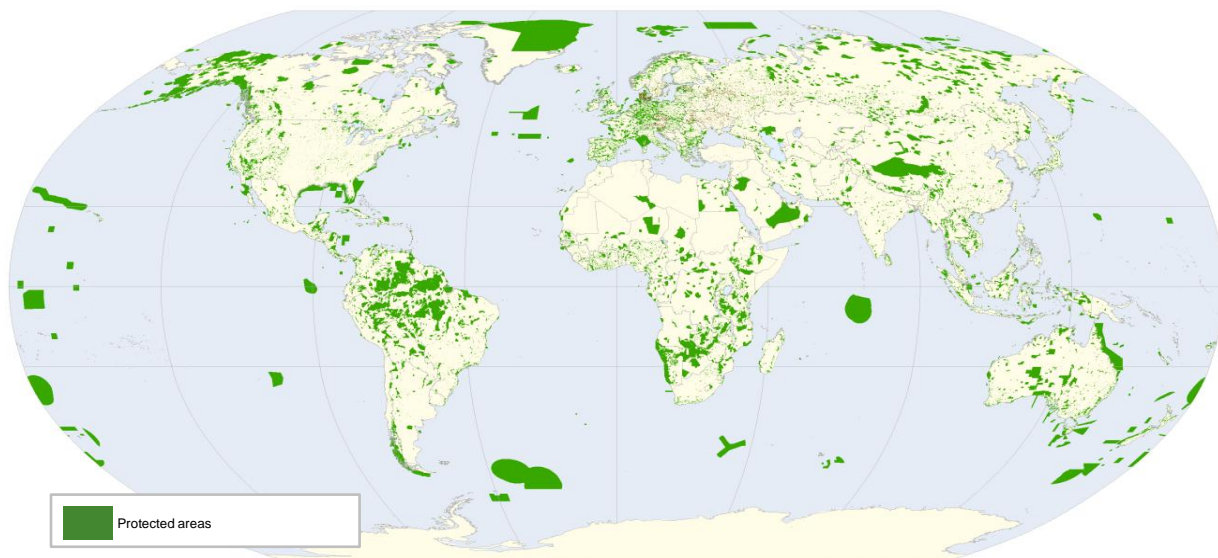
May 2014

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 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 May 2014 monthly release.

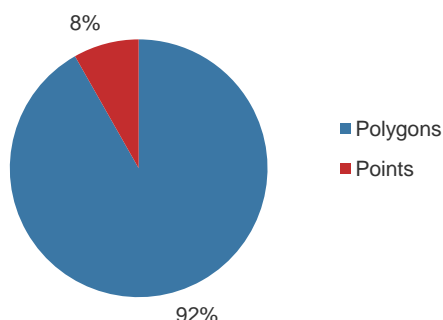
Map showing protected areas in the WDPA



Protected areas data in the WDPa

There are 193,942 protected area records stored in the WDPa, 164,611 are national-level protected areas with 29,330 designated under international and regional 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 points



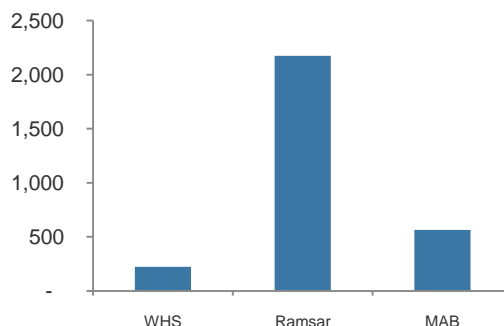
Of the 193,942 protected areas, 9,500 (5%) include a marine component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment.

Data for protected areas designated under international conventions and agreements

There are 2,962 protected areas in the WDPa designated under international conventions or agreements.

222 are World Heritage Sites (WHS), 2,175 are Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, 565 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

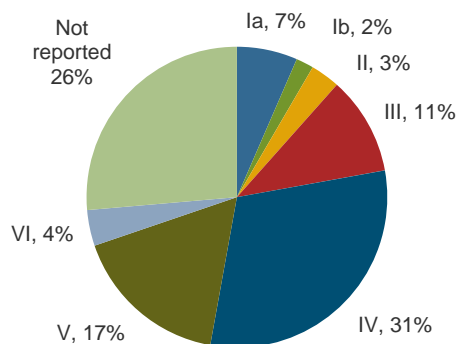
There are 26,368 protected areas in the WDPa designated under regional conventions or agreements. 26,170 are Natura2000 sites and 198 sites are designated under regional seas conventions.

Data for national-level protected areas

There are 164,611 national-level protected area records in the WDPa. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 121,200 of these records. The remaining 43,411 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 | 74% |
| Status (designated or proposed) | 100% |
| Status Year | 81% |
| Governance Type | 70% |
| Management Authority | 31% |
| Link to Management Plan | 100.0% |

The Data Standard can be viewed at www.unep-wcmc.org/world-database-on-protected-areas-wdpa-data-standards_966.html

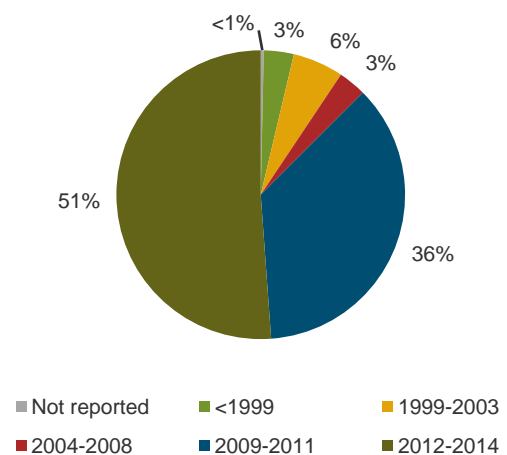
Data sources in the WDPA

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.

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 1,963 records in the WDPA with no reported source.

Table 2: WDPA Data (as of May 2014)

| | Polygons | Points | Total |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Realm: terrestrial or marine | | | |
| Terrestrial | 170200 | 14242 | 184442 |
| Marine (partially or completely) | 7781 | 1719 | 9500 |
| Status: designated or proposed | | | |
| Designated | 175764 | 15054 | 190818 |
| Proposed | 1909 | 819 | 2728 |
| Status not reported | 307 | 88 | 395 |
| International Protected Areas | | | |
| | 1643 | 1319 | 2962 |
| UNESCO World Heritage Sites | 222 | 0 | 222 |
| Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) | 1245 | 930 | 2175 |
| UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves | 176 | 389 | 565 |
| Regional Protected Areas | | | |
| | 26322 | 34 | 26368 |
| Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM) | 159 | 0 | 159 |
| Marine Protected Area (CCAMLR) | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Marine Protected Area (OSPAR) | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive) | 20892 | 30 | 20922 |
| Special Protection Area (Birds Directive) | 5244 | 4 | 5248 |
| Specially Protected Area of Marine Importance (Barcelona Conveni | 20 | 12 | 32 |
| National Protected Areas: IUCN Management Category | | | |
| | 150015 | 14596 | 164611 |
| Ia: Strict Nature Reserve | 10492 | 236 | 10728 |
| Ib: Wilderness Area | 3108 | 11 | 3119 |
| II: National Park | 4972 | 227 | 5199 |
| III: National Monument or Feature | 11736 | 5670 | 17406 |
| IV: Habitat/species management area | 48524 | 2005 | 50529 |
| V: Protected Area with sustainable use | 26439 | 1430 | 27869 |
| VI: Protected Landscape/Seascape | 5913 | 437 | 6350 |
| Not Reported (NR) | 38831 | 4580 | 43411 |
| Total number of records in the WDPA | | | |
| | 177981 | 15961 | 193942 |

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 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 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