

WDPA Data Status Report

The World Database on Protected Areas

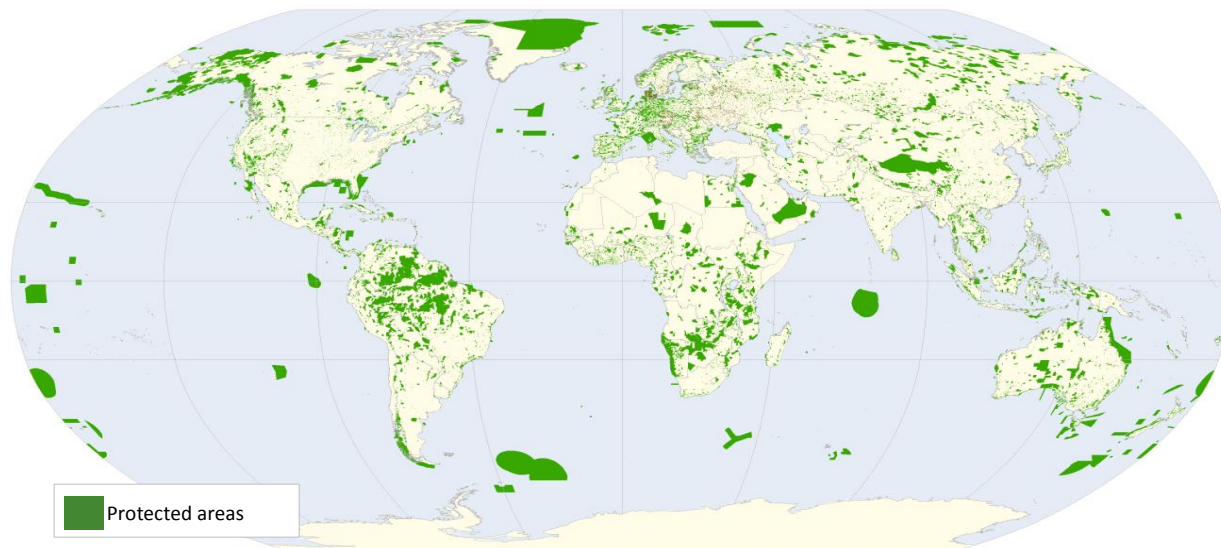
May 2015

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 May 2015 monthly release.

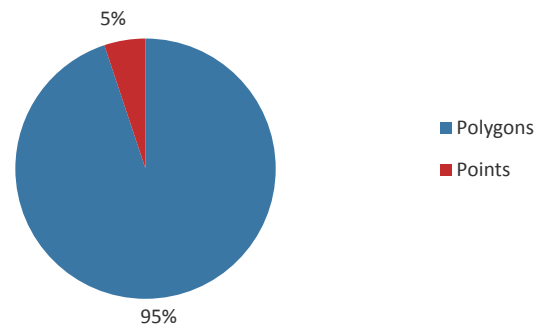
Map showing protected areas in the WDPA



Protected areas data in the WDPA

There are 206,696 protected area records stored in the WDPA, 174,429 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 and points



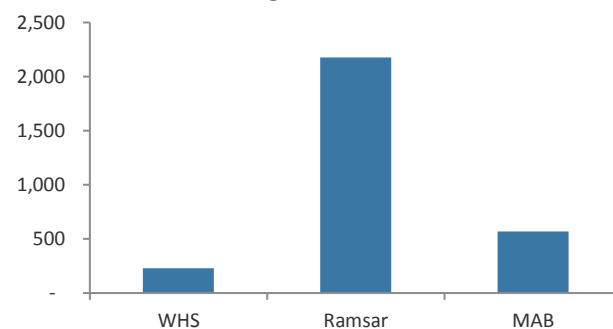
Of the 206,696 protected areas, 12,557 (6%) include a marine or coastal component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment.

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

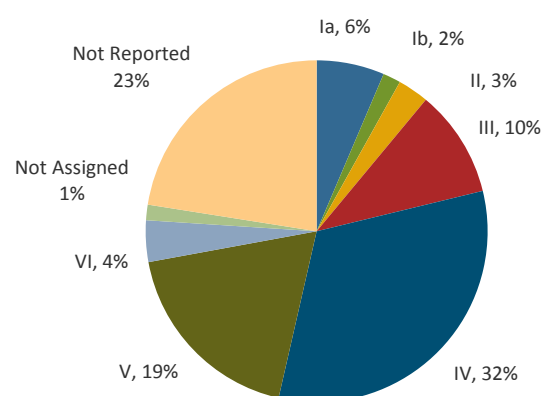
There are 29,295 protected areas in the WDPA designated under regional conventions or agreements. 29,097 are Natura2000 sites and 198 sites are designated under regional seas conventions.

Data for national-level protected areas

There are 174,429 national-level protected area records in the WDPA. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 132,621 of these records. The remaining 41,808 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	76%
Status (designated or proposed)	100%
Status Year	86%
Governance Type	88%
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.

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 1,933 records in the WDPA with no reported source.

Figure 4: Percentage of records updated or validated by year

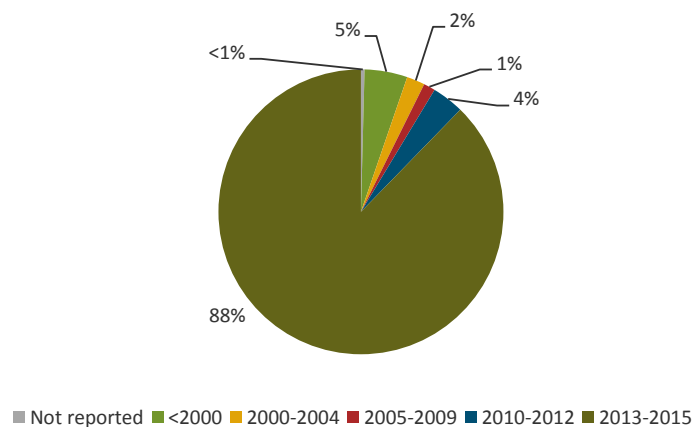


Table 2: WDPA Data (as of May 2015)

	Polygons	Points	Total
Realm			
Terrestrial	184,843	9,296	194,139
Coastal*	3,591	0	3,591
Marine	7,669	1,297	8,966
<i>* under validation</i>			
Status			
Designated	194,290	9,925	204,215
Proposed	1,645	601	2,246
Status not reported	168	67	235
Areas designated under international conventions and agreements			
UNESCO World Heritage Sites	228	0	228
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1,269	907	2,176
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	194	374	568
Areas designated under regional conventions and agreements			
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)	23,608	0	23,608
Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)	5,489	0	5,489
Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (Barcelona Conv.)	23	9	32
National-level protected areas: IUCN Management Category			
Ia: Strict Nature Reserve	11,035	146	11,181
Ib: Wilderness Area	2,934	2	2,936
II: National Park	4,977	141	5,118
III: Natural Monument or Feature	14,068	3,680	17,748
IV: Habitat / Species Management Area	54,903	1,565	56,468
V: Protected Landscape / Seascape	31,052	1,277	32,329
VI: Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	6,670	171	6,841
Not Assigned	2,556	0	2,556
Not Reported	36,931	2,321	39,252
Total number of records in the WDPA			
	196,103	10,593	206,696

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, 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.



0% 100% | The range of scores for individual countries in the WDPA, with the lowest and highest percentages
| Overall score for the WDPA