

## WDPA Data Status Report

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# The World Database on Protected Areas

November 2013

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

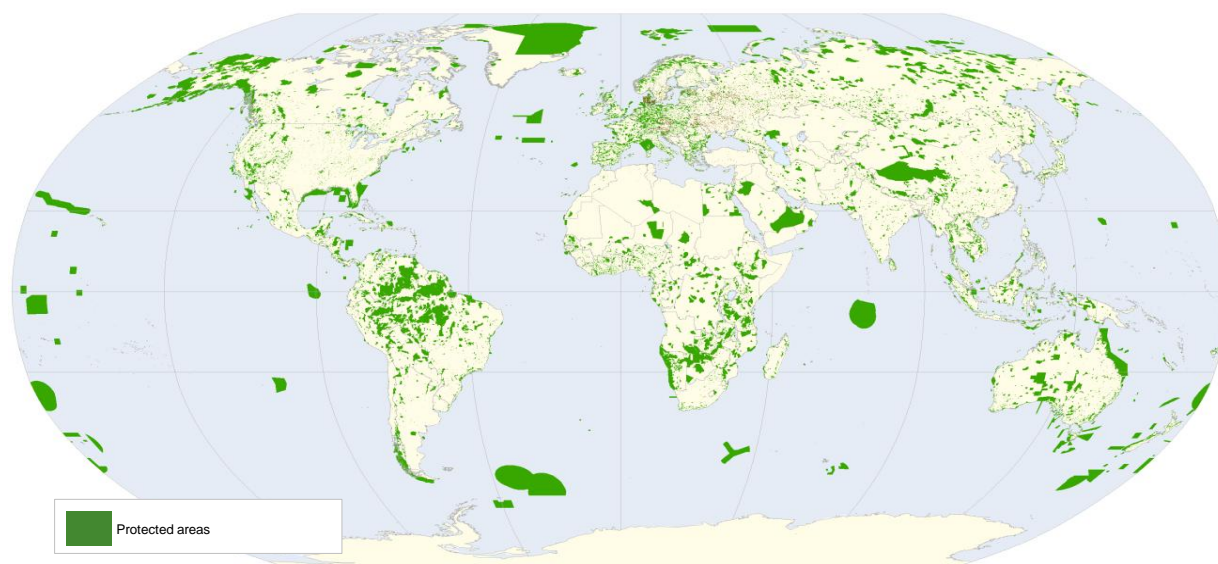
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The WDPA is the most comprehensive global dataset on terrestrial and marine protected areas, incorporating the official UN List of Protected Areas. The WDPA dataset is not necessarily a complete representation of all the protected areas which have 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 November 2013 monthly release.

### Map showing protected areas in the WDPA

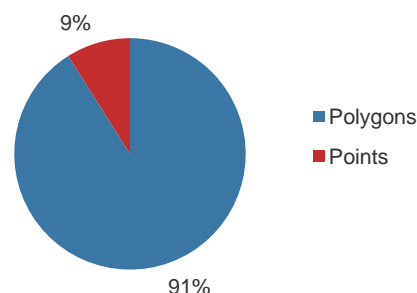
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## Protected areas data in the WDPA

There are 183,574 protected area records stored in the WDPA, 154,305 are national-level protected areas with 29,269 designated under international agreements or conventions. 91% of the data have boundaries in polygon format, with the remaining 9% 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

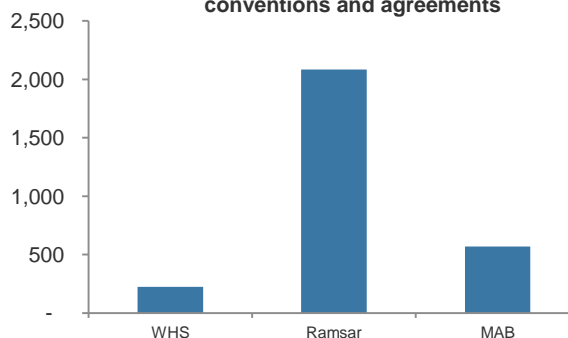


Of the 183,574 protected areas, 9,430 (5%) include a marine component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment.

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

There are 29,269 protected areas in the WDPA designated under international conventions or agreements; 222 are World Heritage Sites (WHS), 2,084 are Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, 569 are UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserves (MAB) and 26,170 are Natura2000 sites. There are also 224 sites designated under other conventions and agreements. See Figure 2

Figure 2: Sites designated under international conventions and agreements

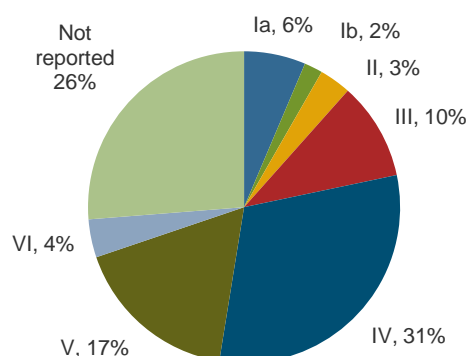


### Data for national-level protected areas

There are 154,305 national-level protected area records in the WDPA. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 113,806 of these records. The remaining 40,499 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)	99.8%
Status Year	79%
Governance Type	42%
Management Authority	21%
Link to Management Plan	0.3%

The Data Standard can be viewed at [www.unep-wcmc.org/world-database-on-protected-areas-wdpa-data-standards\\_966.html](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/world-database-on-protected-areas-wdpa-data-standards_966.html)

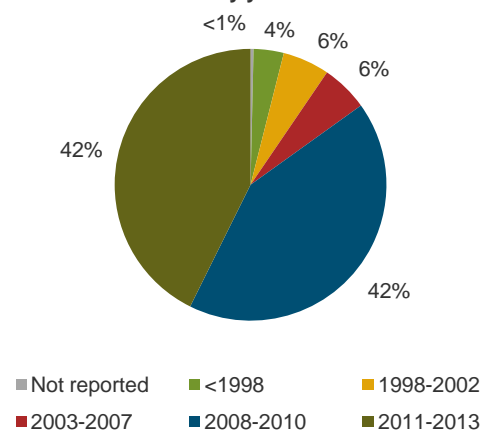
## Data sources in the WDPA

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 1,936 records in the WDPA with no reported source.

**Table 2: WDPA Data (as of November 2013)**

	Polygons	Points	Total
<b>Realm: terrestrial or marine</b>			
Terrestrial	159410	14734	<b>174144</b>
Marine (partially or completely)	7728	1702	<b>9430</b>
<b>Status: designated or proposed</b>			
Designated	164895	15528	<b>180423</b>
Proposed	1968	820	<b>2788</b>
Status not reported	275	88	<b>363</b>
<b>International Protected Areas</b>			
	<b>27960</b>	<b>1309</b>	<b>29269</b>
UNESCO World Heritage Sites	222	0	<b>222</b>
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1214	870	<b>2084</b>
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	176	393	<b>569</b>
ASEAN Heritage Park	26	0	<b>26</b>
Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)	159	0	<b>159</b>
Marine Protected Area	1	0	<b>1</b>
Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)	6	0	<b>6</b>
Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive)	20892	30	<b>20922</b>
Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)	5244	4	<b>5248</b>
Specially Protected Area of Marine Importance (Barcelona Convent)	20	12	<b>32</b>
<b>National Protected Areas: IUCN Management Category</b>			
	<b>139178</b>	<b>15127</b>	<b>154305</b>
Ia: Strict Nature Reserve	9619	242	<b>9861</b>
Ib: Wilderness Area	2907	34	<b>2941</b>
II: National Park	4838	231	<b>5069</b>
III: National Monument or Feature	9839	5767	<b>15606</b>
IV: Habitat/species management area	45582	2024	<b>47606</b>
V: Protected Area with sustainable use	25156	1469	<b>26625</b>
VI: Protected Landscape/Seascape	5661	437	<b>6098</b>
Not Reported (NR)	35576	4923	<b>40499</b>
<b>Total number of records in the WDPA</b>			
	<b>167138</b>	<b>16436</b>	<b>183574</b>

## 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 2008).



### **The percentage of records where the area of the polygon is within 5% of the area reported**

The area (km<sup>2</sup>) 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