

WDPA Data Status Report

The World Database on Protected Areas

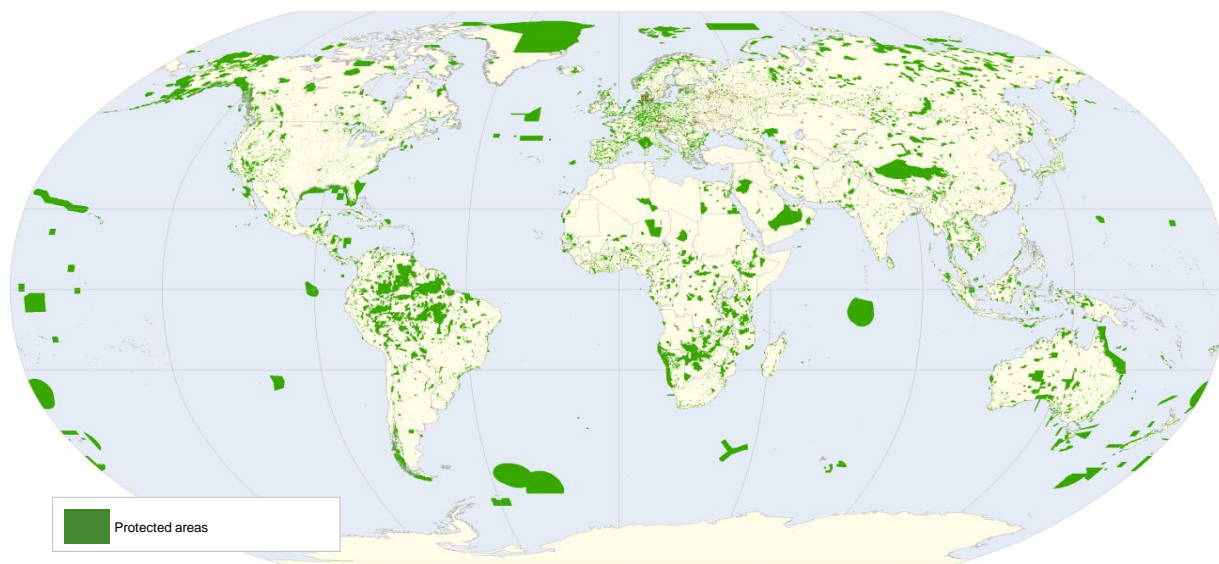
October 2013

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 October 2013 monthly release.

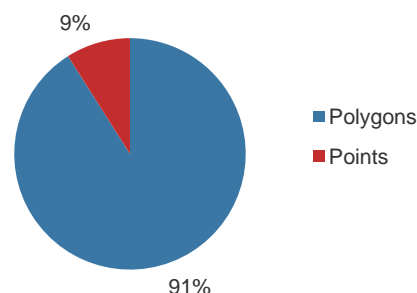
Map showing protected areas in the WDPA



Protected areas data in the WDPA

There are 182,873 protected area records stored in the WDPA, 153,603 are national-level protected areas with 29,270 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

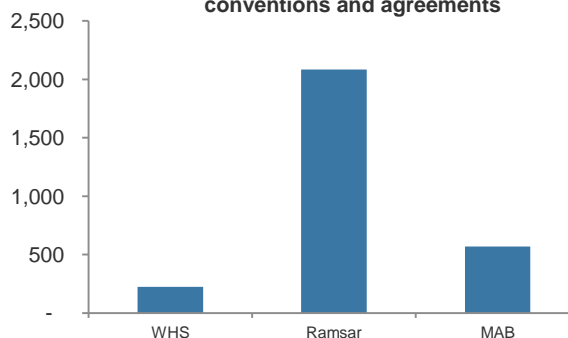


Of the 182,873 protected areas, 9,412 (5%) include a marine component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment.

Data for protected areas designated under international conventions and agreements

There are 29,270 protected areas in the WDPA designated under international conventions or agreements; 223 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

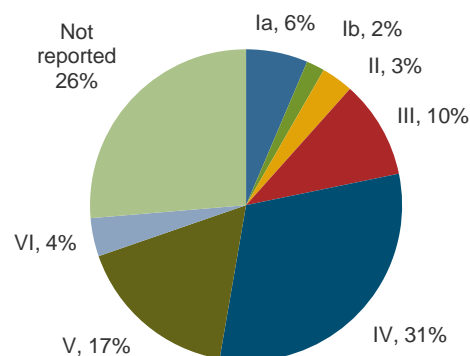


Data for national-level protected areas

There are 153,603 national-level protected area records in the WDPA. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 113,161 of these records. The remaining 40,442 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	41%
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

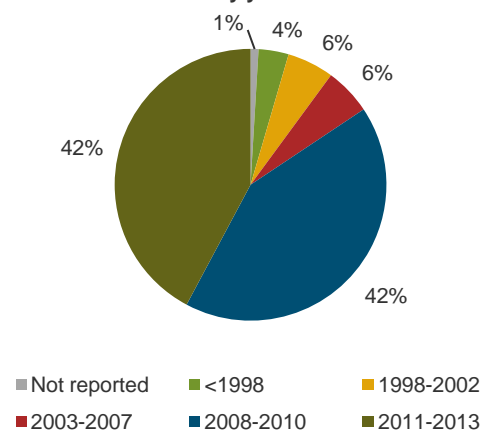
Data sources in the WDPA

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 1,935 records in the WDPA with no reported source.

Table 2: WDPA Data (as of October 2013)

	Polygons	Points	Total
Realm: terrestrial or marine			
Terrestrial	158727	14734	173461
Marine (partially or completely)	7710	1702	9412
Status: designated or proposed			
Designated	164194	15528	179722
Proposed	1968	820	2788
Status not reported	275	88	363
International Protected Areas			
	27961	1309	29270
UNESCO World Heritage Sites	223	0	223
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1214	870	2084
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	176	393	569
ASEAN Heritage Park	26	0	26
Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)	159	0	159
Marine Protected Area	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 Convent)	20	12	32
National Protected Areas: IUCN Management Category			
	138476	15127	153603
Ia: Strict Nature Reserve	9600	242	9842
Ib: Wilderness Area	2878	34	2912
II: National Park	4838	231	5069
III: National Monument or Feature	9836	5767	15603
IV: Habitat/species management area	45527	2024	47551
V: Protected Area with sustainable use	24619	1469	26088
VI: Protected Landscape/Seascape	5659	437	6096
Not Reported (NR)	35519	4923	40442
Total number of records in the WDPA			
	166437	16436	182873