

WDPA Data Status Report

The World Database on Protected Areas

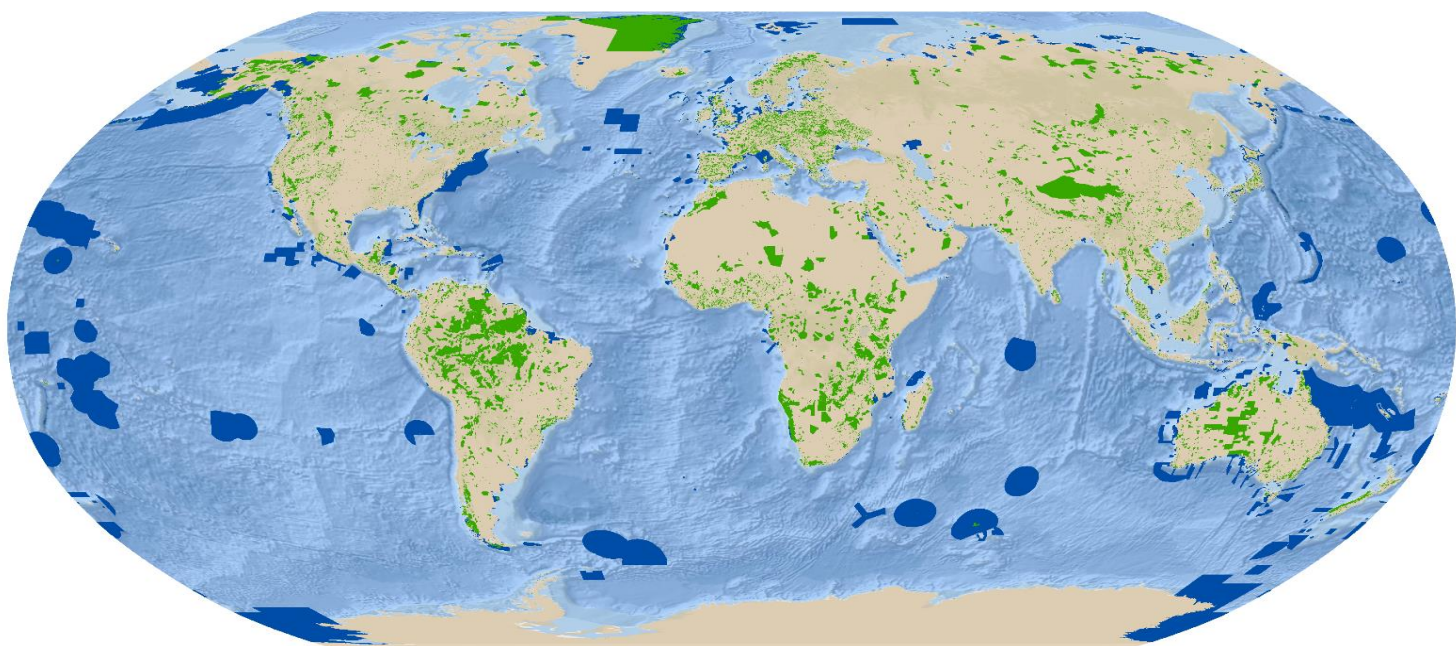
October 2017

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 October 2017 monthly release.

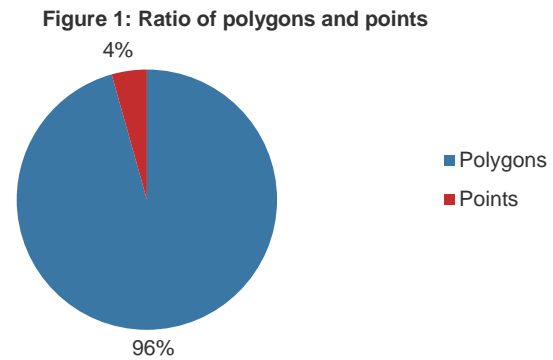
Map showing protected areas in the WDPA



■ Terrestrial protected areas ■ Marine and coastal protected areas

Protected areas data in the WDPA

There are 223,758 protected area records stored in the WDPA, 190,536 are national-level protected areas with 33,222 designated under international and regional agreements or conventions. 96% of the data have boundaries in polygon format, with the remaining 4% depicted in point format (i.e. a single latitude and longitude point for the protected area). See Figure 1.



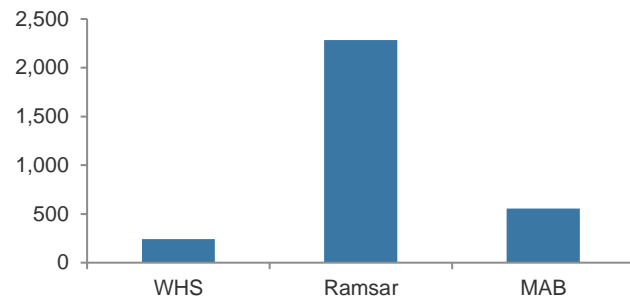
Of the 223,758 protected areas, 15,666 (7%) include a marine or coastal component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment.

Data for protected areas designated under international conventions and agreements

There are 3,080 protected areas in the WDPA designated under international conventions or agreements.

241 are World Heritage sites (WHS), 2,285 are Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, 554 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

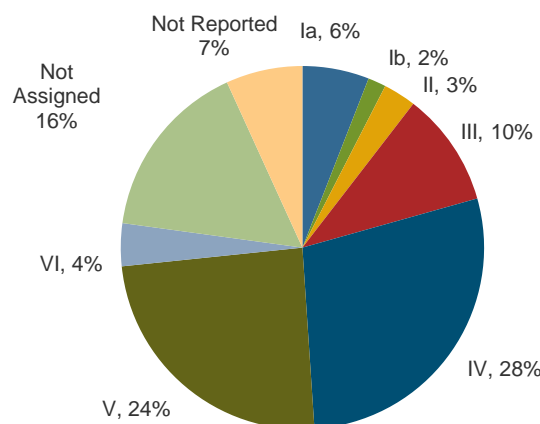
There are 30,142 protected areas in the WDPA designated under regional conventions or agreements. 29,482 are Natura2000 sites and 660 sites are designated under regional seas conventions.

Data for national-level protected areas

There are 190,536 national-level protected area records in the WDPA. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 147,015 of these records. The remaining 43,521 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 1.5 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 1,138 records in the WDPA with no reported source.

Figure 4: Percentage of records updated or validated by year

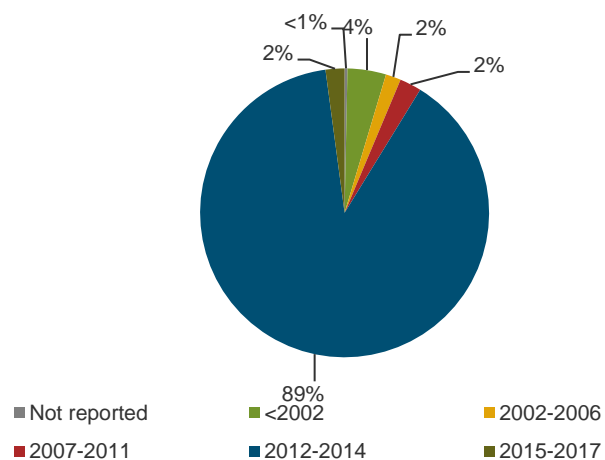


Table 2: WDPA Data (as of October 2017)

	Polygons	Points	Total
Realm			
Terrestrial	199,294	8,798	208,092
Coastal*	10,324	243	10,567
Marine	4,376	723	5,099
<i>* under validation by data providers</i>			
Status			
Designated	212,431	9,366	221,797
Proposed	1,447	354	1,801
Established	1	1	2
Status not reported	115	43	158
Areas designated under international conventions and agreements			
UNESCO World Heritage sites (natural / mixed)	241	0	241
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1,531	754	2,285
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	226	328	554
Areas designated under regional conventions and agreements			
Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)	174	0	174
Marine Protected Area (CCAMLR)	6	0	6
Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)	417	0	417
Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive)	23,878	0	23,878
Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)	5,604	0	5,604
Specially Protected Area (Cartagena Convention)	29	0	29
Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (Barcelona Conv.)	34	0	34
National-level protected areas : IUCN Management Category			
Ia: Strict Nature Reserve	11,201	115	11,316
Ib: Wilderness Area	3,052	1	3,053
II: National Park	5,440	109	5,549
III: Natural Monument or Feature	15,730	3,673	19,403
IV: Habitat / Species Management Area	52,423	1,505	53,928
V: Protected Landscape / Seascape	45,229	1,288	46,517
VI: Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	7,095	154	7,249
Not Assigned	30,539	0	30,539
Not Reported	11,145	1,837	12,982
Total number of records in the WDPA			
	213,994	9,764	223,758

WDPA Quality Indicators

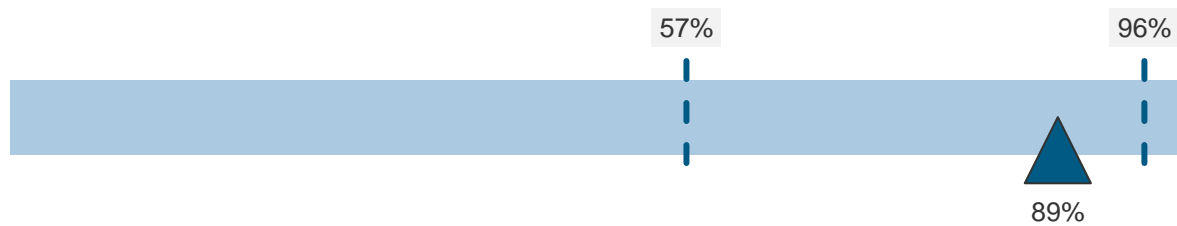
The percentage of records with boundaries in polygon format

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