

## WDPA Data Status Report

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# The World Database on Protected Areas

September 2014

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

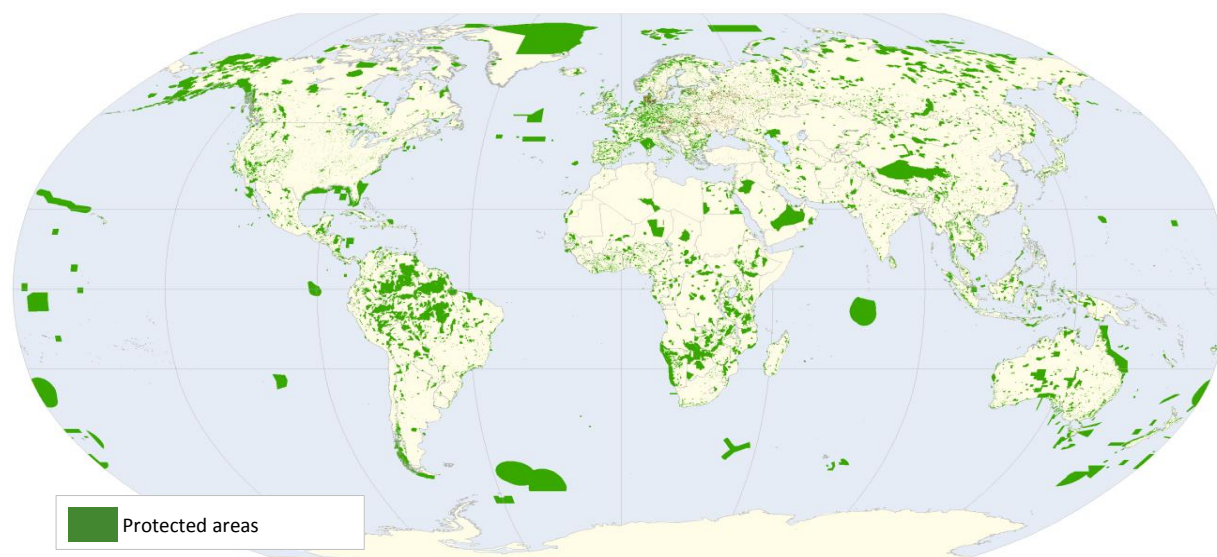
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The WDPA is the most comprehensive global dataset on terrestrial and marine protected areas, incorporating the official UN List of Protected Areas. The WDPA dataset is not necessarily a complete representation of all the protected areas which have 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 September 2014 monthly release.

### Map showing protected areas in the WDPA

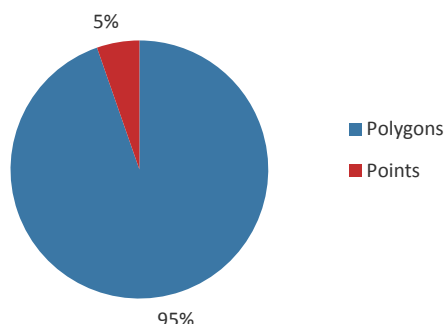
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## Protected areas data in the WDPA

There are 203,158 protected area records stored in the WDPA, 170,935 are national-level protected areas with 32,222 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 to points



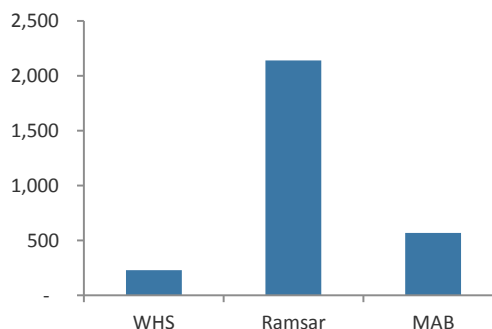
Of the 203,158 protected areas, 193,726 (95%) include a marine component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment.

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

There are 2,933 protected areas in the WDPA designated under international conventions or agreements.

228 are World Heritage Sites (WHS), 2,138 are Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, 567 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

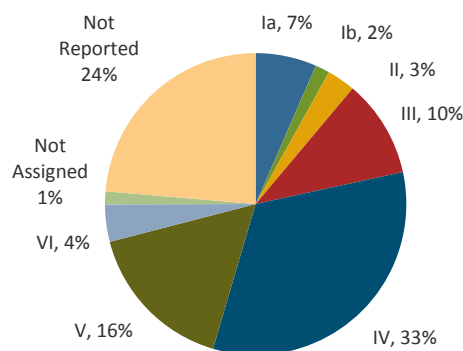
There are 29,289 protected areas in the WDPA designated under regional conventions or agreements. 29,097 are Natura2000 sites and 192 sites are designated under regional seas conventions.

### Data for national-level protected areas

There are 170,935 national-level protected area records in the WDPA. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 128,126 of these records. The remaining 40,443 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	75%
Status (designated or proposed)	100%
Status Year	84%
Governance Type	87%
Management Authority	100%
Link to Management Plan	2.8%

The Data Standard can be viewed at <http://wcmc.io/90f3>.

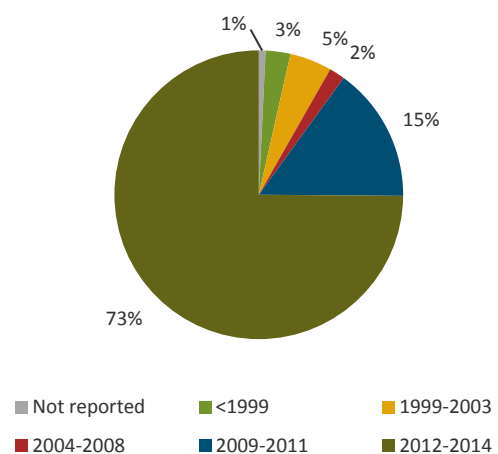
## Data sources in the WDPA

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.

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 36,073 records in the WDPA with no reported source.

**Table 2: WDPA Data (as of September 2014)**

	Polygons	Points	Total
<b>Realm: terrestrial or marine</b>			
Terrestrial	181013	9432	<b>190445</b>
Marine (partially or completely)	11308	1405	<b>12713</b>
<b>Status: designated or proposed</b>			
Designated	189959	10145	<b>200104</b>
Proposed	2202	622	<b>2824</b>
Status not reported	160	70	<b>230</b>
<b>International Protected Areas</b>			
	<b>1667</b>	<b>1266</b>	<b>2933</b>
UNESCO World Heritage Sites	228	0	<b>228</b>
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	1252	886	<b>2138</b>
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	187	380	<b>567</b>
<b>Regional Protected Areas</b>			
	<b>29280</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29289</b>
Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)	153	0	<b>153</b>
Marine Protected Area (CCAMLR)	1	0	<b>1</b>
Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)	6	0	<b>6</b>
Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive)	23608	0	<b>23608</b>
Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)	5489	0	<b>5489</b>
Specially Protected Area of Marine Importance (Barcelona Conv.)	23	9	<b>32</b>
<b>National Protected Areas: IUCN Management Category</b>			
	<b>161373</b>	<b>9562</b>	<b>170935</b>
Ia: Strict Nature Reserve	11003	165	<b>11168</b>
Ib: Wilderness Area	2645	2	<b>2647</b>
II: National Park	5033	160	<b>5193</b>
III: National Monument or Feature	14219	3683	<b>17902</b>
IV: Habitat/species management area	54764	1595	<b>56359</b>
V: Protected Area with sustainable use	26744	1284	<b>28028</b>
VI: Protected Landscape/Seascape	6637	192	<b>6829</b>
Not Assigned	2366	0	<b>2366</b>
Not Reported (NR)	37962	2481	<b>40443</b>
<b>Total number of records in the WDPA</b>			
	<b>192321</b>	<b>10837</b>	<b>203158</b>

## WDPA Quality Indicators

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### ***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 January 2010).



### ***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.

