



## World Protected Areas 2019 (vector) - version 1, Feb. 2023

This metadata refers to The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) database are joint products of UNEP and IUCN, managed by UNEP-WCMC and the IUCN working with governments, communities and collaborating partners. The databases store information on the global distribution of terrestrial and marine protected areas and OECMs. The databases contain protected areas and OECMs designated at the national level and under regional and international conventions and agreements, in addition to those not legally designated. International designations include those under the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO), and sites under the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB). Regional agreements include sites under the Natura 2000 network (European), as well as Marine Protected Areas designated under regional conventions such as the Convention for the Protection of the marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and many others.

The WDPA has been in existence since 1981, and is the most comprehensive global database on terrestrial and marine protected areas, comprising both spatial data (i.e. boundaries) and attribute data (i.e. descriptive information). The mandate of the database dates from 1959 when the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council called for a list of national parks and equivalent reserves in recognition that they 'are valuable for economic and scientific reasons and also as areas for the future preservation of fauna and flora and geologic structures in their natural state' Resolution 713 (XXVIII). The first UN List of Protected Areas, as it became known, was subsequently published in 1962, and subsequently evolved into the WDPA. The database is also used to generate indicators to track progress towards the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and UN Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15.

Reference Time: The WDPA was created for the first time in 1981. It stores data on protected areas around the world from their year of creation. This currently ranges from 1819 to 2019. The OECM database will be available on the Protected Planet website from late-2019.

THE WORLD DATABASE ON PROTECTED AREAS (THE SPATIAL SERVICES) HAS BEEN USED IN THE COPERNICUS GLOBAL LAND HOT SPOT MAPPING (C-GL-HSM) CONTRACT UNDER THE COORDINATION OF JRC TO OBTAIN STATISTICS ON LAND COVER CHANGES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PROTECTED AREAS.

### Simple

Date (Creation)	2019-01-01
Date (Publication)	2019-01-01
Date (Revision)	2019-01-01
Edition	01.00
Citation identifier	jrc_v_4326_30_m_c-gl-hsm-pa_p_1819-2019_v01_r00

### Point of contact

No information provided.

Maintenance and update frequency	Monthly
GEMET - INSPIRE themes, version 1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Protected sites</li><li>Area management/restriction/regulation zones and reporting units</li></ul>
Keywords	
Continents, countries, sea regions of the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>World</li></ul>
Keywords	
GEMET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>biodiversity conservation</li><li>protected area</li><li>protected marine zone</li><li>landscape protection</li><li>site protection</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>conservation policy</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Spatial scope</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Global</a></li> </ul>
Access constraints	Other restrictions
Other constraints	<a href="#">no limitations to public access</a>
Use constraints	Other restrictions
Other constraints	<p>Access to Data and any other content within the World Database on Protected Areas (the "WDPA Materials") as made available through the ProtectedPlanet.net website is provided on the understanding that you read and consent to be bound to the Terms and Conditions set out below. For the purposes of this Agreement, WDPA data comprise all the spatial data and associated attribute data contained within the WDPA and made available through ProtectedPlanet.net</p> <p>NO COMMERCIAL USE</p> <p>PLEASE READ THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CAREFULLY. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE TO ANY OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS DO NOT DOWNLOAD. BY DOWNLOADING THE WDPA MATERIALS MADE AVAILABLE ON PROTECTEDPLANET.NET YOU ACCEPT AND AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BELOW.</p> <p><a href="https://www.unep-wcmc.org/en/wdpa-data-license">https://www.unep-wcmc.org/en/wdpa-data-license</a></p> <p>Citation(s):</p> <p>UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (year), Protected Planet: [insert name of component database; The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)/Database on other effective area-based conservation measures] [On-line], [insert month/year of the version downloaded], Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN. Available at: <a href="http://www.protectedplanet.net">www.protectedplanet.net</a>.</p> <p>Other Cited References UNEP-WCMC (2019). User Manual for the World Database on Protected Areas and world database on other effective area-based conservation measures 1.6. UNEP-WCMC: Cambridge, UK 2018. UNEP-WCMC2018 United Nations List of Protected Areas. Supplement on protected area management effectiveness. UNEP-WCMC: Cambridge (UK)</p>
Aggregate DatasetIdentifier	6cc26c0a-fc1a-45e7-ac62-7438f186b7dc
Association Type	Cross reference
Spatial representation type	Vector
Spatial representation type	Text, table
Language of dataset	English
Character set	UTF8
Topic category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment</li> <li>Biota</li> <li>Location</li> </ul>

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<b>Begin date</b>	1981-01-01		
<b>End date</b>	2019-12-31		
<b>Coordinate reference system identifier</b>	<a href="#">EPSG:4326</a>		
<b>Distribution format</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHP ( 1.0)</li> <li>• GDB ( 1.0)</li> <li>• ascii (.csv, .txt, .sql) ( 1.0)</li> </ul>		
<b>OnLine resource</b>	<b>Protocol</b> WWW:URL  WWW:LINK-1.0-http--link  WWW:LINK-1.0-http--link  OGC:WMS  ESRI:REST	<b>Linkage</b> <a href="http://wcmc.io/WDPA_Manual">http://wcmc.io/WDPA_Manual</a>  <a href="https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/thematic-areas/wdpa?tab=WDPA">https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/thematic-areas/wdpa?tab=WDPA</a>  <a href="https://land.copernicus.eu/en/products/clcc-hot-spots/protected-areas-in-key-landscapes-for-conservation-borders">https://land.copernicus.eu/en/products/clcc-hot-spots/protected-areas-in-key-landscapes-for-conservation-borders</a>  <a href="https://data-gis.unep-wcmc.org/server/rest/services/ProtectedSites/The_World_Database_of_Protected_Areas/MapServer/WMTS?">https://data-gis.unep-wcmc.org/server/rest/services/ProtectedSites/The_World_Database_of_Protected_Areas/MapServer/WMTS?</a>  <a href="https://data-gis.unep-wcmc.org/server/rest/services/ProtectedSites/The_World_Database_of_Protected_Areas/FeatureServer">https://data-gis.unep-wcmc.org/server/rest/services/ProtectedSites/The_World_Database_of_Protected_Areas/FeatureServer</a>	<b>Name</b> User Manual  Protected Areas (WDPA)  Protected Areas in Key Landscapes for Conservation borders  Protected Areas (WDPA)  Protected Areas (WDPA)
<b>Hierarchy level</b>	Dataset		

## Conformance result

<b>Title</b>	Commission Regulation (EU) No 1089/2010 of 23 November 2010 implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards interoperability of spatial data sets and services
<b>Date (Publication)</b>	2010-12-08
<b>Explanation</b>	See the referenced specification
<b>Pass</b>	Yes
<b>Statement</b>	www.protectedplanet.net displays the latest version of the dataset.

Data for protected area records in the WDPA have been obtained from nearly 500 sources. Along with information on the data verifier, these sources are listed in the source table ("WDPA\_Source\_Table") that is included with each monthly release. 72 Data for protected areas designated under international agreements and conventions are often sourced from the relevant convention secretariats. Data for national-level protected areas have been sourced from national authorities wherever possible. Information may also be supplemented by data from other agencies, organisations or individuals. All data in the WDPA have been verified either by the national authorities or by non-government expert partners, with the exception of some data included before the verification process was established. The OECM database is in development and will be compiled in the same way as the WDPA. For detailed information on the WDPA and OECM database fields and verification processes the User Manual (UNEP-WCMC 2019) should be consulted (see links section).

The WDPA dataset is not necessarily a complete representation of all the protected areas which have been designated globally; the quality of the WDPA depends on the accessibility of accurate, comprehensive, up-to-date protected areas information from data holders. Thus, mismatches between on the ground protected areas and protected areas in the WDPA may be due to a number of reasons that include but are not restricted to: new data being quality checked to fit the WDPA standards, data not submitted to the WDPA yet, new protected area boundaries not being accurately digitised or simply not yet being digitised. In many areas, several (up to eight) designations overlap; it is hence necessary to dissolve the dataset before any surface area calculations are carried out. Details on the common issues and quality limitations of the WDPA are described in detail in the User Manual (UNEP-WCMC 2019). The OECM database is in development and cannot yet be considered to be a comprehensive representation of OECMs globally. Populating the database will require a concerted effort and long-term collaborations with governments and other data-providers.

A User Manual (UNEP-WCMC 2019) is provided with the dataset which includes a data dictionary and guide to interpreting the WDPA and OECM database fields. The WDPA can be viewed at, and downloaded from, Protected Planet ([www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net)). From late-2019, the OECM database will be made available in the same way. A factsheet providing background information relevant to protected areas can be found at <http://biodiversitya-z.org/content/protected-areas>. [The methodology used to calculate protected area coverage is available here: https://protectedplanet.net/c/calculating-protected-area-coverage](https://protectedplanet.net/c/calculating-protected-area-coverage)

Metadata

File identifier	ce2b713a-4daa-4748-ae6c-c25ec1787a25 <a href="#">XML</a>
Metadata language	English
Character set	UTF8
Hierarchy level	Dataset
Date stamp	2024-05-29T10:55:23.37633Z
Metadata standard name	UNEP-WCMC Specific
Metadata standard version	1.0

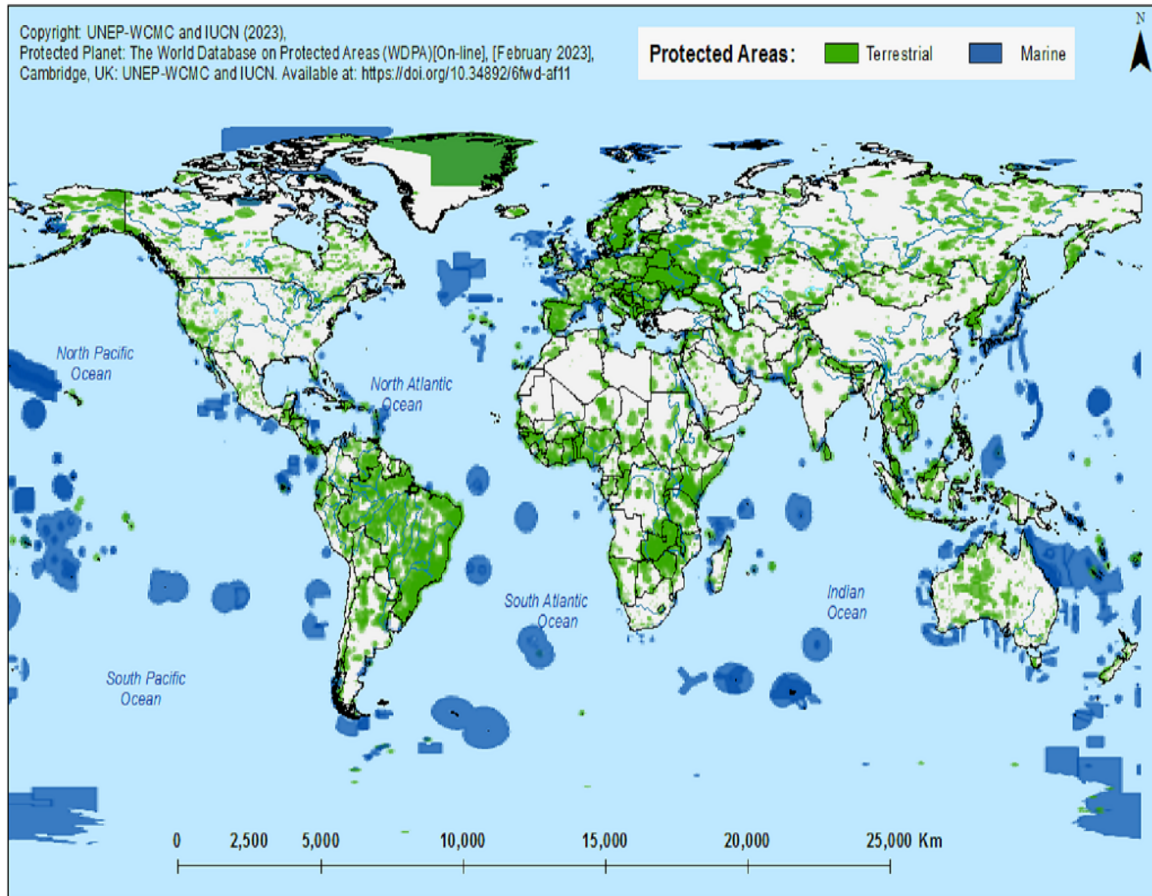
Metadata author

No information provided.

Overviews

Copyright: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2023).  
Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)[On-line], [February 2023],  
Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.34892/6ftw-daf11>

Protected Areas: ■ Terrestrial ■ Marine



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