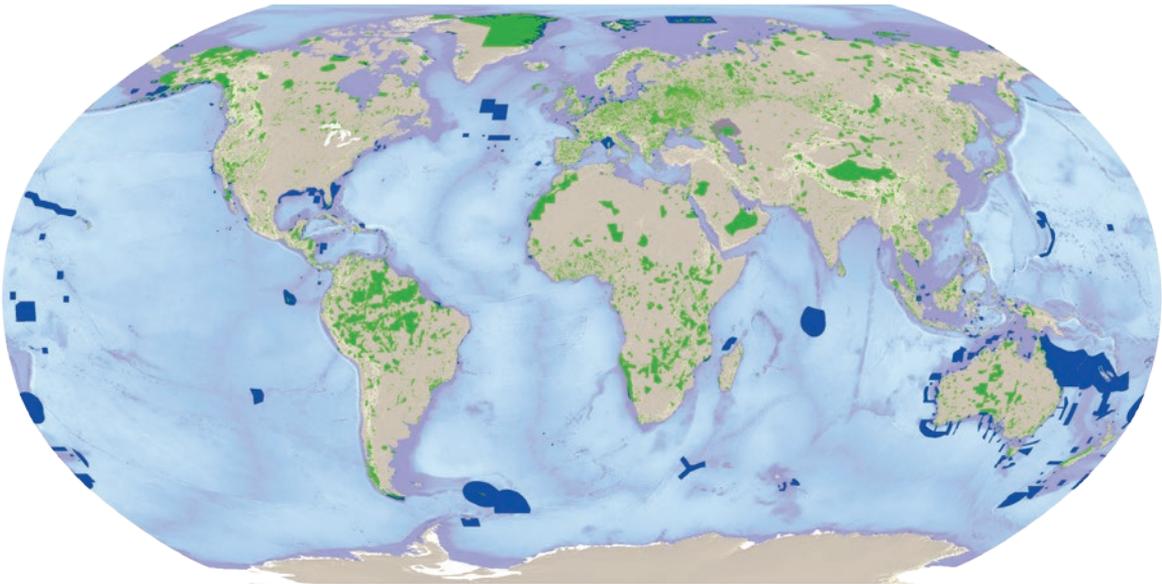


2014 United Nations List of Protected Areas



2014

United Nations List of Protected Areas

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ABNJ:	Area beyond national jurisdiction
CBD:	Convention of Biological Diversity
CDDA:	Common Database on Designated Areas
EEA:	European Environment Agency
ECOSOC:	United Nations Economic and Social Council
GBO:	Global Biodiversity Outlook
GEO:	Global Environment Outlook
GDPA:	Global Database of Protected Areas Management Effectiveness
IUCN:	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LMMA:	Locally-Managed Marine Area
PoWPA:	Programme of Work on Protected Areas
UN:	United Nations
UNEP:	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-WCMC:	United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WDPA:	World Database on Protected Areas

Acknowledgements

The 2014 edition of the United Nations List of Protected Areas has been completed thanks to the valuable input provided by national and international agencies as well as professionals from protected areas management agencies around the world. Their assistance in providing, updating and reviewing protected areas' data and information stored in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) that is underpinning the present report is deeply appreciated.

Thanks are extended to the European Environment Agency (EEA) for providing updated protected areas information for 39 European countries. The cooperation of UNESCO for providing information on Natural and Mixed World Heritages and Man and Biosphere Reserve sites; and the support of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat for providing information on Wetlands of International Importance are acknowledged.

The compilation, review and update of the data would have not been possible without the significant work of the WDPA team of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC). Their assistance is greatly appreciated: Amy Milam, Heather Bingham, Emma Sullivan and Kerstin Brauner, at UNEP-WCMC and Soyoung Park at the Korea National Park Service and UNEP-WCMC.

All errors included in this report are solely responsibility of the authors. Similarly, the content of this report should not be considered as reflecting the views of the individuals and organizations that contributed to the elaboration of the report.

Foreword

At a time when the challenges that the natural world faces are cause for growing concern, protected areas remain the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation and a critical mechanism for not only conserving biodiversity, but also for supporting water security, food security, disaster risk reduction and climate change impact mitigation.

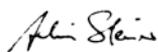
In recognition of the importance of preserving the Planet's natural habitats, the United Nations, more than 50 years ago, initiated a process of compiling an inventory of all protected areas in the world. The UN Economic and Social Council adopted Resolution No. 713 (XXVII) in 1959, called on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to support the UN Secretary General to establish a list of national parks and equivalent reserves. This resolution was endorsed by the UN General Assembly at its Sixteenth Session in 1962. The United Nations List of Protected Areas has since been maintained by IUCN and United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

The 2014 edition of the List reflects the significant progress made in the expansion of protected area networks, from just 9,214 sites in 1962 to over 209,000 in 2014. It is also a testimony to the great political commitment that countries have shown towards this global conservation priority.

The United Nations List of Protected Areas complements the *Protected Planet Report's* detailed assessment of Protected Areas by helping to track progress towards reaching the quantitative aspect of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11: how close we are to reaching 17 per cent coverage of terrestrial areas and 10 per cent of nationally administered marine areas by 2020.

While the present edition of the UN List indicates that the coverage component of Aichi Target 11 of 17 per cent for terrestrial areas is on track to being reached, it also suggests that despite significant recent increases in the coverage of marine protected areas, urgent efforts are needed to accelerate progress if we are to reach globally agreed goals.

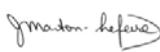
The current UN List is a great example of what governments and their partners can achieve by working in cooperation towards a common goal. It is our hope that the investments that have been made in protected areas will continue in order to ensure that we have fully functioning and sustainably managed natural habitats to help us move forward towards the future we want.



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Executive summary

The United Nations List of Protected Areas has its origins in the recognition of the importance by the United-Nations of the “national parks and equivalent reserves” for the conservation of the Earth’s natural places and for the protection of biodiversity.

In response to a request from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the CBD national focal points and CBD programme of work on protected areas focal points have been working together with the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) team of the UNEP-WCMC to review, update and format protected areas’ information stored in the WDPA for the publication of the official protected area UN lists for each country.

These lists are a compilation of data and information about the world’s global protected area network. They represent a useful and efficient tool for tracking progress on the global protected areas’ network coverage.

The 2014 United Nations List of Protected Areas is the fourteenth edition since the publication of the first edition in 1961/62 and provides information on over 209,000 designated marine and terrestrial protected areas covering more than 30 million km². It includes significant updates since the last edition published in 2003.

The report is structured in two sections. The first part gives a brief introduction on the UN List, its history and the evolution of its content; the second part provides statistics on designated protected areas at the regional level. It is complemented with lists of protected areas for each country that have been made available for viewing and download on the Protected Planet website (www.protectedplanet.net).

The report and the countries’ lists are intended to anyone wishing to learn more about nationally protected areas, as well as protected areas designated under regional or international conventions or agreements.

Through observations highlighted in the statistics section, it is hoped that some gaps in the information will be better targeted in the coming years to provide the next edition of the UN List with even more accurate information.

1. Introduction

The aim of the present report is to provide an up-to-date synopsis of the World's current protected area network in 2014. Significant changes have occurred in countries' protected area networks since the publication of the last edition on the United Nations List of Protected Areas in 2003, 11 years ago.

The report is aimed at States Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, governmental or non-governmental agencies and organizations and at anyone who wishes to learn more about countries' protected area network and coverage.

Through the process of updating information held in the WDPA, the protected area networks for countries have been revised and brought up to date. This information is reflected in the lists of sites that are available online through the Protected Planet website (www.protectedplanet.net).

The two principal objectives of the report are therefore:

1. To present updated lists of protected area data and information for every country.
2. To provide statistics on protected areas at the regional level to identify potential gaps in the information that could be better targeted in the next years.

In order to achieve these objectives, extensive communication efforts with countries' protected areas and government representatives have been made to ensure information reflected in this report, in the WDPA and in the lists of protected areas for countries are as accurate as possible.

This 2014 United Nations List of Protected Areas presents information of over 209,000 protected areas, from 193 countries, covering more than 32 million km² and distributed within 11 regions: Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Central America, Europe, Middle East, North America, Oceania, South America and Southern Oceans.

It is important to understand that protected areas catalogued in the lists that are part of this report are protected areas officially designated by countries. The potential exclusion of conservation areas not yet recognised by national governments is in no way a judgment on the efficacy of these areas for conservation.

2. History of the UN List

The United Nations List of Protected Areas (referred to as the *UN List* throughout this report) has its origins in Resolutions 713 and 810 of the Economic and Social Council (adopted in 1959 and 1962 respectively), which were then endorsed at the Seventeenth Session of the General Assembly in December 1962 through Resolution 1831. These resolutions were drawn up in response to the observation that most countries had established protected areas, and following the United Nations' recognition of the importance of "national parks and equivalent reserves" for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

The first edition of the UN List, entitled the "United Nations List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves", was published in two parts in 1961/62 and was launched at the first World Conference on National Parks held in Seattle, USA in 1962. This meeting defined the basis, definitions and standards for building representative national systems of protected areas. The first part of the list (referred to as E/3436) was a preliminary list of national parks and reserves in countries that had submitted information by mid-December 1960. The second part (referred to as "Part Two") contained further submissions that were omitted from the first part, in addition to some revisions and additions to Part one of the UN List.

Subsequent editions were published in 1966/71, 1972 (addendum to the 1966/71 edition), 1973, 1974, 1975, 1980, 1982, 1985, 1990, 1993, 1997 and 2003. The 1966/71, 1982 and 2003 editions were also launched at World Parks' events, emphasizing the importance of the UN List. These events were respectively, the Second World Conference on National Parks held in Yellowstone, USA; the Third World Congress on National Parks held in Bali, Indonesia; and the Fifth World Parks Congress held in Durban South Africa. Additionally, the 1993 UN List edition used the new IUCN management category system that had been approved just a year earlier during the 1992 World Park Congress, which was subsequently revised and updated in 2008. The 2014 UN List of protected areas is the fourteenth edition and the first linking to an interactive web-site (www.protectedplanet.net).

Each edition of the UN List has been an opportunity for countries to re-assess, improve and enhance their protected area networks, and the information they collate about them. As national protected area networks have expanded and as more information has become available, successive editions of the UN List have become more substantial. The content and format of the publications have also evolved to reflect changes that have occurred in the perception and practices surrounding national parks and protected areas over the years.

Since its inception the publication of the UN List has generated a lot of interest and has been a catalyst in the expansion of many countries' protected area networks through the development of new national legislative measures (IUCN 1971).

This expansion in numbers and coverage of the protected area networks of countries apparent throughout the successive editions of the UN List is illustrative of an increased recognition by Governments and others of the need to conserve the Earth's natural places, and more recently of the need to move towards a more sustainable management and use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. This recognition is also demonstrated through the development and adoption of a wide range of international agreements concerning the conservation of biodiversity. Many such agreements call for the establishment and effective management of protected areas. Most recently, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD established the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Target 11 on protected areas aims at better tracking progress on the coverage, management and efficiency of the global protected area' network across the globe:

“By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes”¹.

The UN List is part of international efforts to assess progress in meeting such international targets. A detailed analysis on global progress towards meeting each of the elements of Aichi Target 11 is available in the 2014 edition of the Protected Planet Report (Juffe-Bignoli et al. 2014).

¹ <http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

3. The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is a joint product between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and it is managed by UNEP-WCMC based in Cambridge, UK. It is the most comprehensive database available on the world's protected areas, and includes for each site both spatial information (i.e. boundaries, informing on the size and shape of the area protected) and tabular data (descriptive information, including type of designation, year of establishment, management authority, etc). The IUCN definition of a protected area is used as the primary criterion for inclusion of a site in the database:

“A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values” (Dudley 2008).

Information held in the WDPA is publicly available on the Protected Planet website (www.protectedplanet.net).

The WDPA contains information on protected areas from 193 countries, and covering a variety of designations and governance types from government-managed protected areas to co-managed, community and privately protected areas. It includes information on terrestrial as well as marine sites, and covers sites designated at the national and regional levels, and those designated by countries under international conventions and agreements.

The database is constantly growing, based on regular updates of information from countries, with updates released on a monthly basis. The scope of the WDPA is also expanding and undergoing re-development to include more qualitative information as new information is made available by countries and more sites are integrated. As of August 2014 the WDPA contains 213,844 records from 193 countries, 194,296 stored in the form of polygons and 19,548 stored as points.

Figure 1 presents the increase of protected area records stored in the WDPA since 2003 as well as the improvement of the quality of these data, indicated by the decrease of records stored as point records and the increase of data stored as polygons.

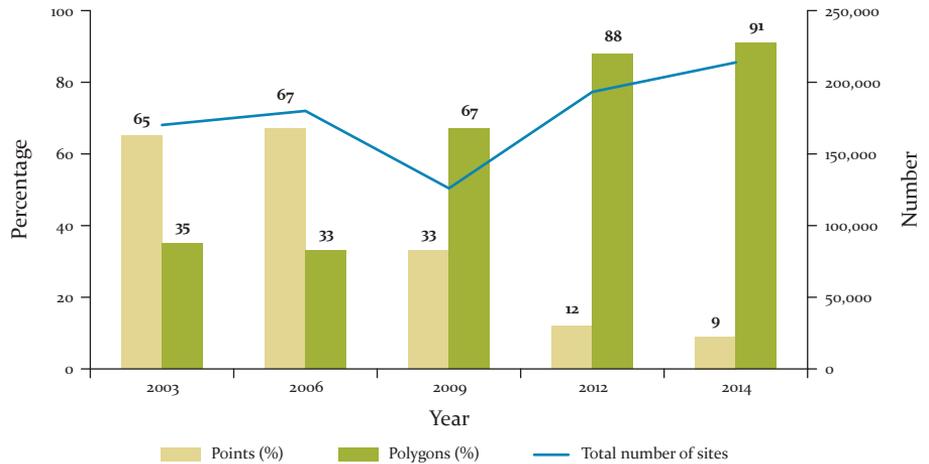


Figure 1: Data improvements between 2003 and 2014 and increase of the number of protected area records stored in the WDPA, based on the five versions of the WDPA from 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2014 (UNEP-WCMC 2014)

Data and information compiled in the WDPA are used in numerous scientific papers and technical reports addressing all aspects of protected areas and their management and impacts. In 2013 for example, 283 peer reviewed publications cited the WDPA (UNEP-WCMC unpublished data). In terms of policy, they are also used for reporting to the CBD on Aichi Target 11, or on progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They are also used in other international assessments or reports including the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) and the Global Environment Outlook (GEO).

In the future it is planned to join the WDPA to other databases including the Global Database of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GDPAME), which will add information on another important element of the CBD Aichi Target 11 to continue improving and enhancing knowledge on protected areas.

4. Compilation of the present edition of the UN List

A CBD notification² was sent on January 8th 2014 to all CBD National focal points and Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) focal points requesting their participation in updating protected areas information in the WDPA, with the aim of compiling, updating and correcting data for the publication of the present UN List.

Following this notification, draft lists and spatial data of nationally designated protected areas were generated based upon existing information stored in the WPDA (January 2014 version) and sent by UNEP-WCMC to these focal points, with a request that they be reviewed, updated and returned by March 31st 2014. Material guidance to assist countries in completing the updates was also provided, in addition to a questionnaire seeking contextual information on countries' national protected area systems. The questionnaire focused on coverage, management and governance. A copy of this document is provided in Annex 1.

In total 195 requests were issued, and by the end of July (deadline for data inclusion in the WDPA to start the spatial analysis), 86 countries had responded with updates and 15 countries were in the process of submitting new information. In addition, official submissions were received from 38 European countries, updated collectively through submission of a new version of the Common Database on Designated Areas (CDDA) supplied by the EEA.

Information received was of a variable nature ranging from complete updates to minor edits. Many countries submitted updated lists of protected areas without spatial information. In this case this information has been included in the countries' lists but only existing spatial information stored in the WDPA have been used for the spatial analyses and calculation of the statistics presented in this report.

When no submission was provided by a country, protected area data previously submitted and already stored in the WPDA were used for both the spatial analysis and to produce the countries' UN list.

Sites designated by countries under international conventions and agreements, including Ramsar sites, Man and Biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites were validated and updated through the relevant secretariats.

Sites designated through regional agreements are mostly confined to Europe (Natura 2000 sites designated under the EU Habitats [92/43/EEC] and Birds Directive [2009/147/EC] respectively). These sites can also refer to sites designated through regional agreements for the protection of the marine environment (known as the Regional Seas Conventions).

The 2014 UN List is a reflection of intense communication between countries' representatives and the WDPA team at UNEP-WCMC, with the aim of ensuring the information presented in the WDPA and UN List is as accurate as possible. However, as with any large data collection exercise, the UN List will inevitably include inaccuracies and omissions. Corrections and updates should be sent to the WDPA team in the Protected Areas Programme of the UNEP-WCMC (protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org), for inclusion in future monthly updates of the database.

5. Format of the 2014 UN List edition

The 2014 United Nations List of Protected Areas comprises the present report introducing the UN List and including a series of analyses on the data. It also comprises all the countries' lists, which are hosted and freely available on the Protected Planet website: (www.protectedplanet.net).

The lists are organised by country (in alphabetical order of the English-language version of the country name). Within each country's lists, sites are listed by designation in alphabetical order based on whether the designation is at the national, regional or international level. English translations of designations are used. Sites designated at several levels have been included in all relevant lists.

For each site, the status, year of designation, area (in km²) and IUCN management category are indicated, where reported.

Along with the lists, a map of current information stored in the WPDA is provided for each country.

5.1. CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION

In the 2003 UN list, as in the present edition, the only factor determining whether a site was included was its adherence to the IUCN definition of a protected area: *“A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values”*.

Therefore, all countries' lists that are part of the 2014 United Nations List of Protected Areas include:

- All protected areas that meet the IUCN definition of a protected area
- All protected areas with or without IUCN management categories
- All protected areas regardless of size
- All protected areas regardless of governance type
- Nationally designated sites, as well as those designated under regional and international conventions and agreements.

The spatial analysis presented in the second part of this report includes all designated national (e.g. national park), regional (e.g. Natura 2000 sites), and international (e.g. World Heritage natural sites) protected areas included in the WDPA (August 2014 version). The following sites have been excluded from the calculation of the global coverage statistics:

- The UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves - as many buffer areas of these sites do not meet the IUCN definition of a protected area (these sites are however included in the official countries' list);
- All proposed sites which have not yet been designated (these sites are however included in the official countries' list);
- Protected areas submitted as points with no reported area (these sites are however included in the official countries' list);
- Conservation areas that do not meet the IUCN definition of protected areas are not included in the WDPA. For example, the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) in the Pacific is a network of protected areas - some of which do not meet the IUCN definition of a protected area as their primary objective is resource use rather than conservation.

5.2 INFORMATION GAPS AND QUALITY OF THE INFORMATION

The UN List has been compiled based on information submitted by authoritative data providers from the countries. However, it is important to bear in mind that a few gaps in the data exist which it is hoped will be rectified in subsequent editions.

- Many countries have submitted only partially updated information, excluding either spatial information or descriptive information on management effectiveness and governance;
- Some sites do not have an area reported – hence potentially under-representing the coverage of the country's actual network;
- For countries which have not submitted any updates, current information stored in the WDPA has been used; however as this information is sometimes a decade or more old, the country's network may, again, be misrepresented;
- Some sites do not have year of designation reported;
- It is possible that some sites within the WDPA may be considered as “paper parks”. In the absence of detailed knowledge of the sites these sites are impossible to identify in a global dataset. Further information on the effectiveness of protected areas is needed to properly assess for this. This UN List therefore does not delist sites reported by countries or make any judgement on the level of site management or conservation status.

- Although the area should be reported in km² some sites in the WDPA may be reported in different units. Similarly, transferring between projection systems can also lead to differences in area calculations. Sites impacted by this issue can be very difficult to detect in a global dataset.
- Polygon (and point) records in the WDPA contain no information on the degree of human use, either allowed or illegal, nor do they provide any information on the remaining habitat cover or species populations. They also provide no information on the social benefits and impacts, in terms of provisioning services or restrictions on access to natural capital. As such these polygons are not amenable to many kinds of analyses of impacts, ecosystem services or biodiversity outcomes, and all protected areas are, for the purposes of the analyses presented here, assumed to be of the same importance.

6. Analysis of the 2014 listed protected areas

The regional divisions of the world used in the following analyses are based upon the regional categorisation system used by the CBD, which differentiates nine regions: Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Central America, Europe, Middle East, North America, Oceania and South America.

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In addition to these nine regions and in order to more accurately represent the global protected areas coverage, two regions have been added:

- The *Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)* have been added to report about the existence of marine protected areas in these areas;
- The *Southern Oceans* region - including Antarctica, French Southern Territories, Bouvet Island, Falkland Islands, Heard Island and McDonald Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Saint Helena - has been added in order to be as inclusive as possible. Unless specified otherwise, when referring to the Southern Oceans region, it includes data about Antarctica.

Similarly, 49 entities not represented in the CBD regional divisions have been included in the relevant geographical regions to more accurately represent the regional coverage (for example, New Caledonia – an overseas territory of France located in the Southwest Pacific Ocean has been included in Oceania instead of Europe).

A map displaying countries included within each region is presented in Annex 2.

6.1. COVERAGE OF THE WORLD'S PROTECTED AREAS

The 2014 UN List contains **209,429** protected areas covering a total area of 32,868,673 km² - an area larger than the African continent. In total, 3.41% of the world's marine area and 14% of the world's terrestrial areas are currently protected. If Antarctica is excluded from the global statistics coverage, the percentage of the total terrestrial area protected is 15.4%.

Figure 2 presents a map of the global designated terrestrial and marine protected areas' extent as of August 2014.

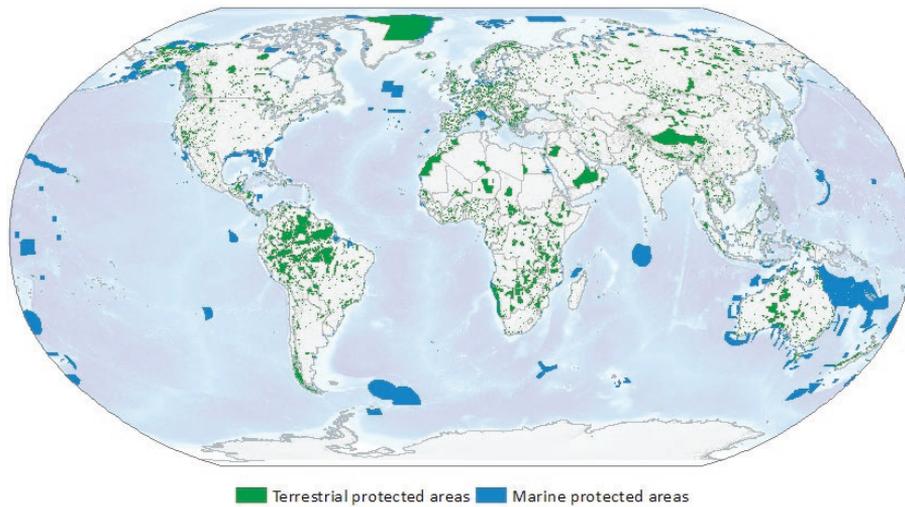


Figure 2: Map representing the designated marine and terrestrial protected areas as of August 2014 (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014)

Since the first edition of the UN List there has been a significant growth in both the number and area of protected areas. Table 1 presents the total number of sites and total area reported in the previous editions of the UN List (Chape et al. 2003). Over 30 million square kilometres have become protected in the last 50 years and the number of protected areas designated and/or recognised by countries has doubled every decade for the last 20 years (figure 3). It is important to mention here that the increase in numbers of protected areas, especially over the last 10 years does not necessarily equate to the creation of over 100,000 new protected areas. Many other reasons may explain this growth, including a wider perception of the definition of a protected area allowing the consideration for more criteria to define a site as protected area; a better recognition from governments of certain types of protected areas (e.g. community and privately protected areas); the protection of a single geography under multiple designations or simply new countries reporting on the totality of their national protected area network.

Table 1: Cumulative growth of the protected areas network since 1962 (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014, with data from Chape et al. 2003)

Year	Number of sites	Total area protected, (km ²)
1962	9,214	2,400,000
1972	16,394	4,100,000
1982	27,794	8,800,000
1992	48,388	12,300,000
2003	102,102	18,800,000
2014	209,429	32,868,673

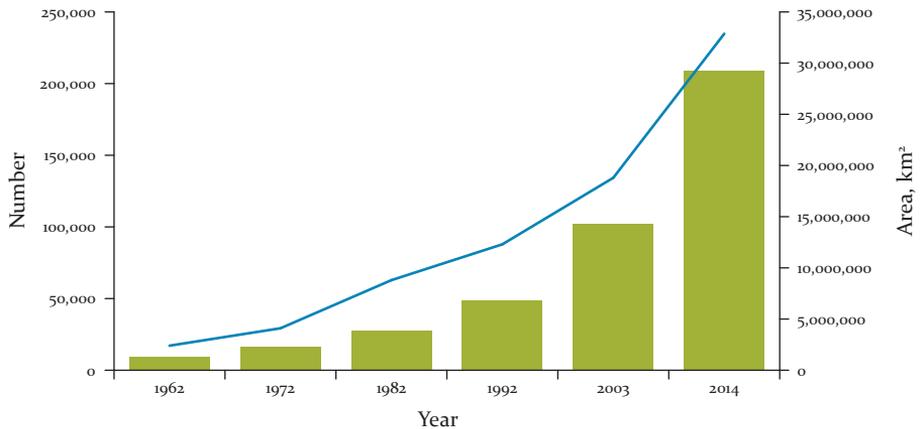


Figure 3: Evolution of the terrestrial and marine protected area network, in numbers of sites (green bars) and in area (km²; blue line) since the first World Park Congress in 1962 based on previous versions of the UN List (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014, with data from Chape et al. 2003).

At the regional level, coverage statistics are differing greatly when comparing terrestrial and marine realms (figures 4 and 5). In most regions, terrestrial areas are more protected than marine areas. Only Oceania has a larger marine area protected than its lands. This is mostly due to the establishment of a number of very large marine protected areas in the last few years, including the Australian Commonwealth marine protected areas or the recently designated New Caledonian site, *Parc Naturel de la Mer de Corail* (approx 1.3 million km²), the latter currently being the world's largest protected area.

The relatively low marine coverage of the Caribbean region is explained by the small area of the marine reserves.

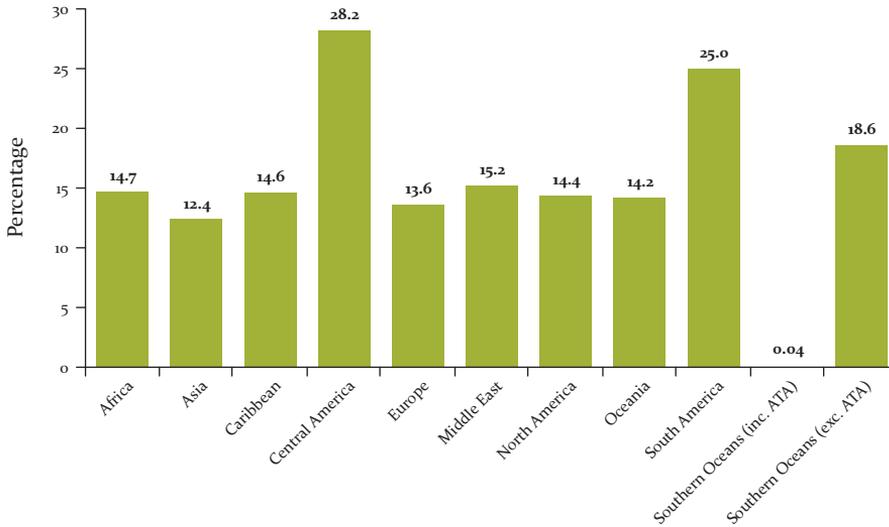


Figure 4: Percentage of land covered by protected areas in the regions. The numbers indicate the percentage of land protected for each region (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014)

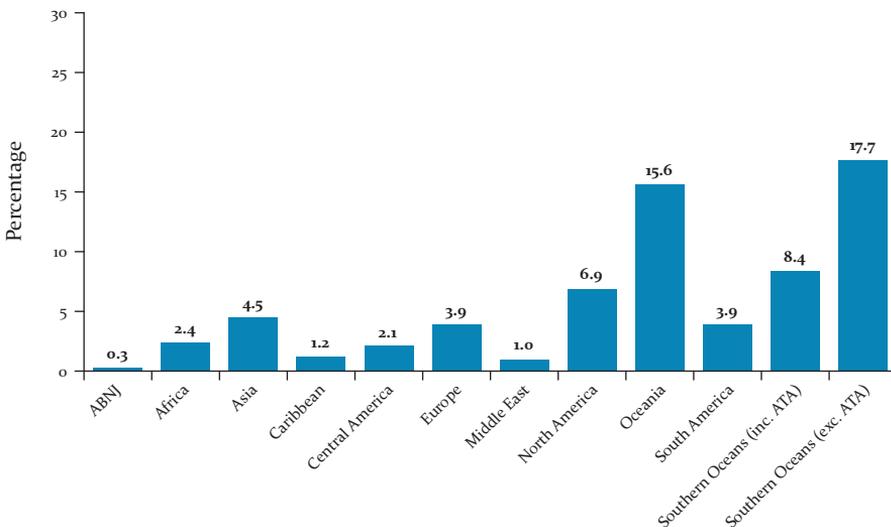


Figure 5: Percentage of marine area (0-200 nautical miles) covered by protected areas in the regions. The numbers indicate the percentage of marine area protected in each region. (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014)

At a regional level, good progress has been made towards achieving 17% of protected area coverage of the land as defined in CBD Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. However, although the marine coverage has increased significantly over the last years, it still remains much lower than the 10% coverage for marine and coastal areas.

There are some important differences between regions concerning the number and size patterns of protected areas (figures 6 and 7). Of the global protected areas' network approximately 65% of the sites are located in the European region. These sites however only account for over 12% of the total area covered by protected areas. Conversely, Africa and South America are characterized by a relatively small number of protected areas (3.3% and 1.6% of the total respectively) but these sites are generally much larger and cover approximately 15% of the global area protected.

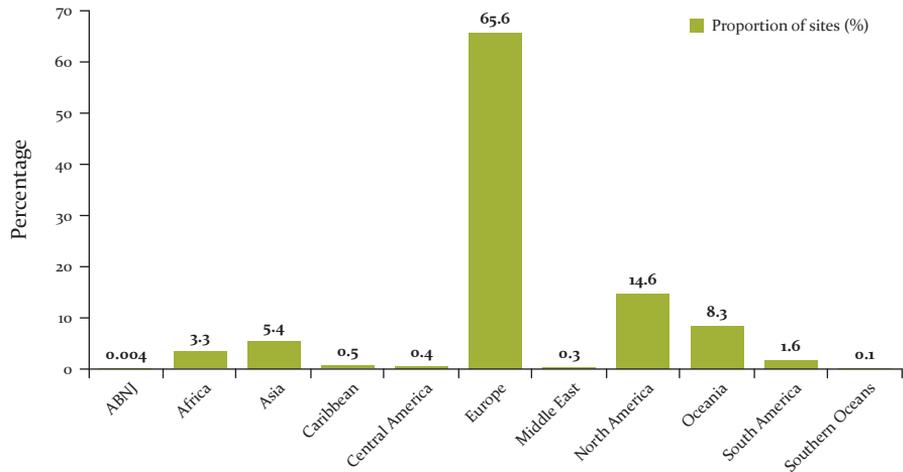


Figure 6: Percentage of the number of protected areas distributed in the different regions (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014)

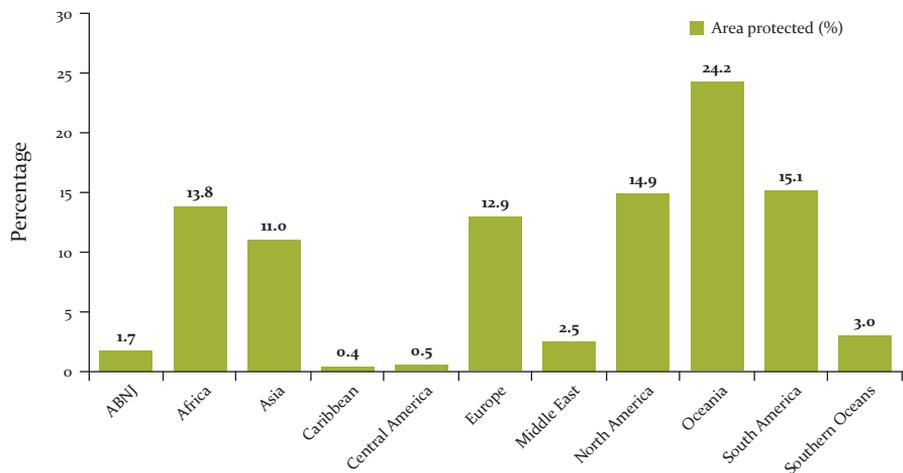


Figure 7: Percentage of the total area covered by the protected areas' network among regions (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014)

The differences observed in figures 6 and 7 can partly be explained by looking at the average number of designations within single geographies. In Europe in particular, there are a large number of small sites, and areas are often covered by more than one designation. Hence, while there are a large number of sites, the relative area protected is smaller.

In the South-Eastern part of France for example, the area referred to as “Les Ecrins” is protected under 7 different designations, all protecting part or most of the same geography. These designations include National Park, Site of Community Importance, Special Protection Area, Biological Protection Order, National Nature Reserve and Forest Biological Reserve.

Conversely, in Africa for example, the number of geographies designated under several designations is much smaller, although it does still occur. For example in Tanzania there are National Parks that are also designated as World Heritage Sites, but where former Forest Reserves are also still located legally within the boundaries of the park as they have never been formally de-gazetted.

It is important to note that for the purposes of calculating global protected area coverage these overlaps and duplicate areas are removed.

6.2. SIZE DISTRIBUTION OF PROTECTED AREAS

This section uses area of the protected area as reported in the WDPA by data providers. Protected areas differ widely in size with strong regional trends. Excluding the 14% of records stored in the WDPA where there is no area reported, almost 50% of all sites have an area less than 1 km² (figure 8). However, the proportion of very large sites with an area greater than 100 km² is relatively small (less than 7%).

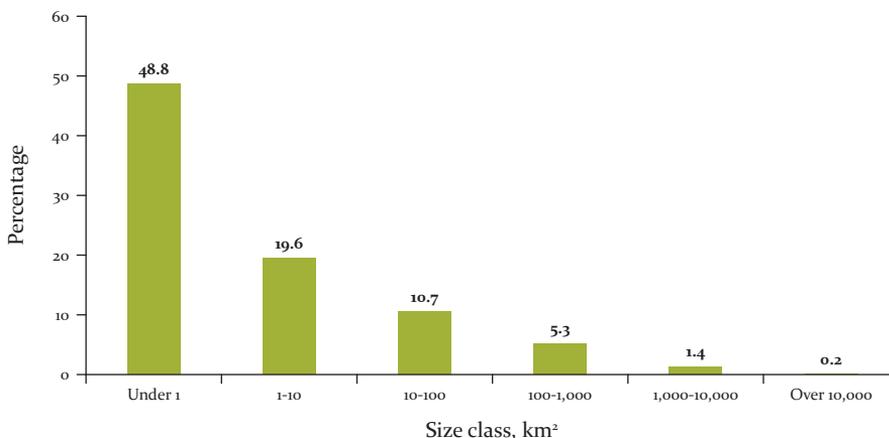


Figure 8: Proportion of sites per size class, in km² (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014)

Sites larger than 10,000 km² are present in all regions although South America, Africa and to a lesser extent Oceania are the regions with the highest proportions of large sites (figure 9).

When comparing between regions over three-quarters of protected areas smaller than 1 km² are located in Europe. North America is the region with the highest proportion of sites with no area reported.

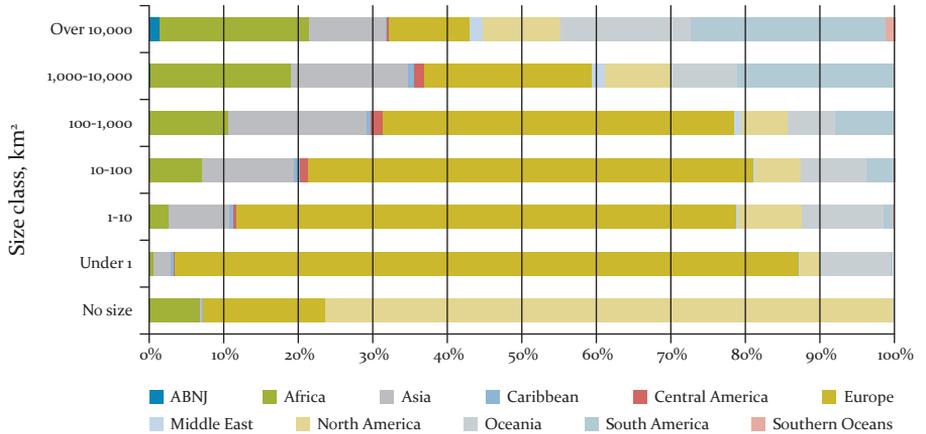


Figure 9: Comparison of the sites' size distribution regions (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014)

Protected areas located in the ABNJ are relatively large, all over 100 km² and the majority over 10,000 km².

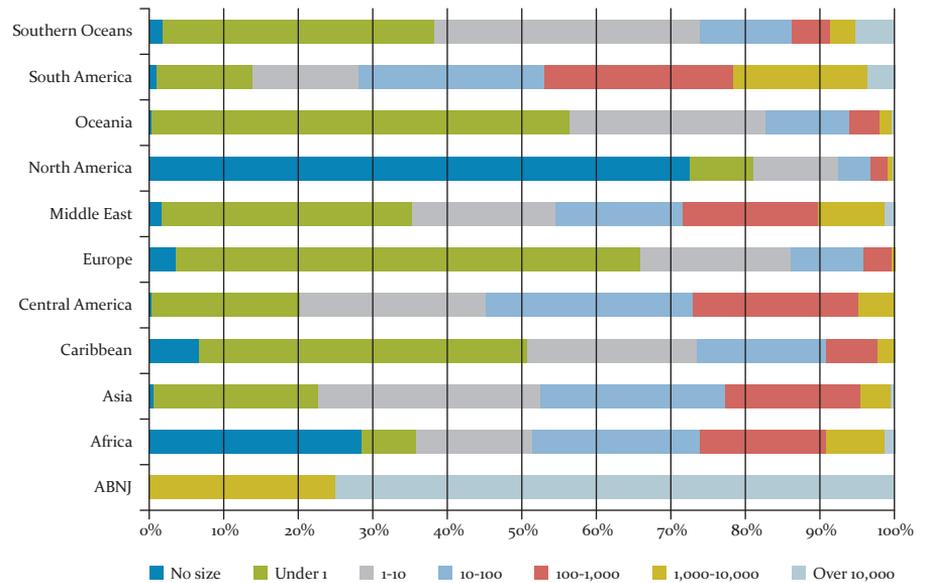


Figure 10: Comparison of the sites' size distribution within regions (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014)

6.3. THE 10 LARGEST PROTECTED AREAS

The two largest sites (over 1 million km²), both marine protected areas, are located in Antarctica and in Oceania (*Parc Naturel de la Mer de Corail* in New Caledonia (a territory of France) and the *South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area* in South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (a territory of the UK).

The total area covered by the 10 largest sites (eight of these being marine protected areas) accounts for over 20% of the global area currently protected (32,868,673 km²).

Table 2: Attributes of the 10 largest designated protected areas (Source: IUCN and UNEP-WCMC 2014)

Region	Name	Type	Area, km ²
Oceania	Natural Park of the Coral Sea (France)	Marine	1,292,967
Southern Oceans	South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area (UK)	Marine	1,070,000
Oceania	Coral Sea, Australia	Marine	989,842
North America	North-East Greenland, Greenland	Terrestrial	972,000
Middle East	Ar-Rub'al-Khali, Saudi Arabia	Terrestrial	640,000
Asia	British Indian Ocean Territory Marine Protected Area (Chagos), UK	Marine	640,000
Oceania	Kermadec, New Zealand	Marine	469,276
Oceania	Phoenix Islands, Kiribati	Marine	410,500
North America	Papahānaumokuākea, USA	Marine	362,075
Oceania	Great Barrier Reef, Australia	Marine	348,700

6.4. IUCN MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

The IUCN protected area management categorisation system provides an international standard for the classification of protected areas according to their management objectives. The application of these categories is voluntary and it is important to emphasize the fact that some countries choose not to apply them. Currently within the WDPA, the value of “Not Reported” often covers both of these cases, where the categories have deliberately been not assigned, as well as those cases where the information has not been provided or the country or agency has not yet assigned an IUCN category to sites.

Therefore, there is a potential bias in the figures and trends shown below. In the future this information will be improved in the WDPA to enable a better identification of countries choosing to apply or not to apply this categorisation system; thereby allowing for more precise statistics and accurate reporting regarding the protected areas’ management systems of all countries regardless of the protected areas’ management system chosen.

When comparing the regions to one another, Europe, North America and Oceania respectively are the regions that have the highest proportion of sites represented in the different IUCN management categories (figure 11). North America and to a lesser extent in Oceania have the most frequent application of the IUCN management category II. Europe has the biggest proportion of sites reported under the other IUCN management categories. Similarly, although all regions have many protected areas without any IUCN management category reported; Europe has the highest proportion globally. Within most regions, the IUCN management category most frequently reported is “Not Reported” (figure 12).

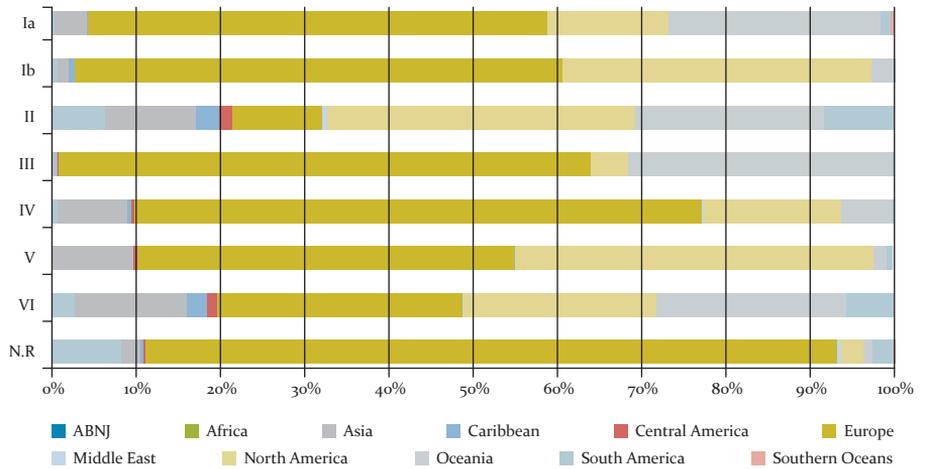


Figure 11: Comparison of the sites' IUCN category distribution between regions (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014)

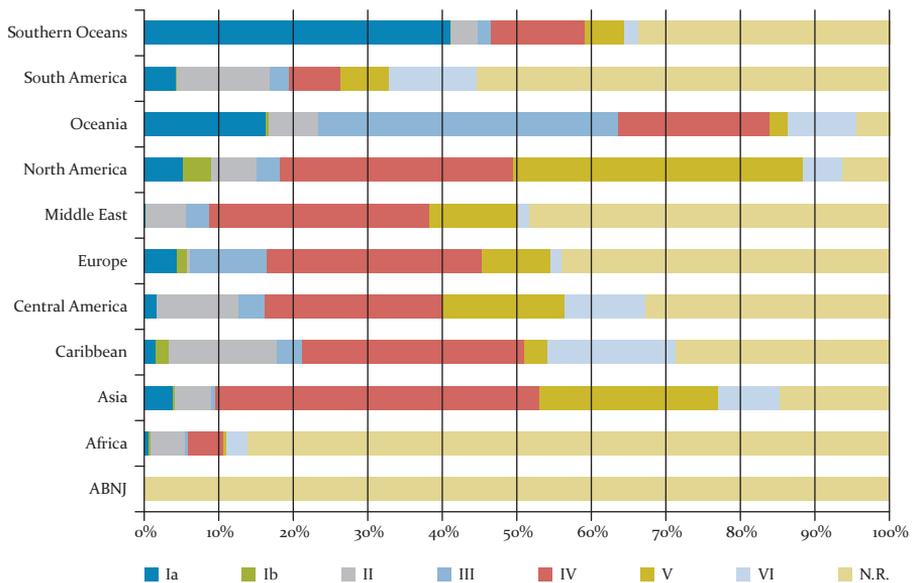


Figure 12: Comparison of the sites' IUCN category distribution within regions (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014)

Where the IUCN management categories are reported, IUCN management category IV is predominant in most regions.

6.5. GOVERNANCE TYPES

Governance refers to the decision-making structure and management authority of a protected area. It is analyzed according to the four main protected areas' governance types recognised by IUCN; each type including several sub-categories (Borrini-Feyerabend et al. 2013). A summary of these categories is reported in table 3.

Table 3: IUCN governance types and subcategories (Source: Borrini-Feyerabend et al. 2013)

A. Governance by government	B. Shared governance
Federal or national ministry or agency in charge	Transboundary management
Sub-national ministry or agency in charge	Collaborative management (various forms of pluralist influence)
Government-delegated management (e.g. to an NGO)	Joint management (pluralist management board)
C. Private governance	D. Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities
Declared and run by individual landowners	Indigenous peoples' protected areas and territories - established and run by indigenous peoples
by non-profit organizations (e.g. NGOs, universities)	Community conserved areas - declared and run by local communities
by for-profit organizations (e.g. Corporate owners, cooperatives)	

Despite the relatively high percentage of sites where no information on the governance is reported in Europe, Africa and Asia, the governance pattern presents some strong regional trends (figure 13):

- Governance by governments (type A) is most widely reported in Europe, and to a lesser extent in North America;
- Shared governance (type B) is most widely reported Oceania and to a lesser extent in Africa;
- Private governance (type C) is most important in North America and to a lesser extent in Oceania;
- Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities (type D) is most widely reported in South America and Oceania, and to a lesser extent in Central America.

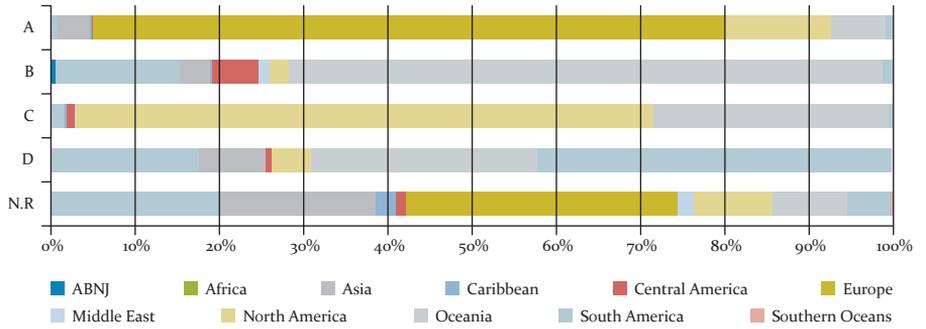


Figure 13: Comparison between regions of the distribution of the protected areas' network according to the governance type (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014)

Trends within a region can also be observed (figure 14):

- Within Africa, the Southern Oceans and the Middle East the large majority of sites do not have any information reported on the governance type;
- Within Europe more particularly, and within Asia, and North America, governance by government (type A) is most important. Private governance also seems to be relatively common in North America and Oceania (around 20% and 15% of the sites respectively are privately run).
- In the ABNJ, shared governance is predominant;

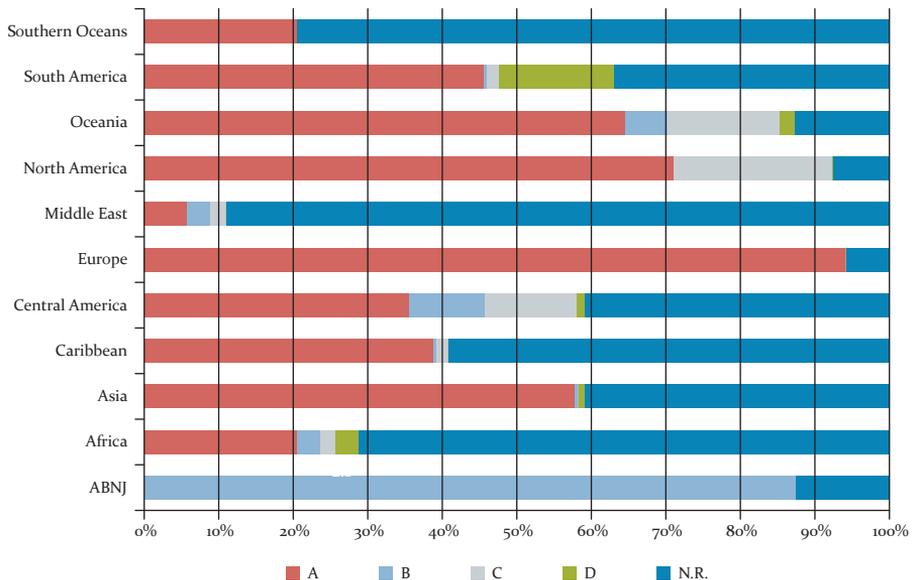


Figure 14: Comparison of protected areas' governance type distribution within regions (Source: UNEP-WCMC 2014)

7. Conclusion

The global protected areas network has grown significantly since the publication of the last edition of the UN List in 2003 as shown by the increase in number of protected areas and the total area covered by these sites. This expansion confirms the recognition by governments of the importance of protected areas and the need to conserve the Earth's natural places.

Although all regions have known an extension in both their marine and terrestrial networks, the global marine area covered by protected areas is still very much under-represented. However, an increasing number of large marine protected areas have been designated over the last few years and it is hoped that this trend will continue so that there is a sufficient marine coverage to protect biodiversity.

There are still many gaps in the information on protected areas currently stored in the WDPA that need to be addressed. Further communication efforts between countries' representatives and the WDPA team of the UNEP-WCMC are needed to ensure completeness and accuracy of the data stored in the database.

Concerted efforts should be made towards ensuring a better representation of privately protected areas in the WDPA and in the future editions of the UN Lists, as this category of sites increasingly become officially recognised in countries.

Enriching the information on protected areas through linking the WDPA to other databases including those on the effectiveness of management activities, habitat cover, species range and abundance, the degree of human use and social benefits of protected areas should be another point of focus. This will enhance the quality of the information and enable more detailed analyses on the impacts, outcomes and benefits of protected areas.

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Annex 1: Information sharing request

NATIONAL PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM

We would like to better understand the national system for protected areas in place in your country.

- 1: Does the national network or system for protected areas have an official name?**
- 2: Are terrestrial and marine protected areas managed under the same network of protected areas?**
- 3: What are the names of the authorities in charge of protected areas management? These may be one or several national parks agencies and/or national ministries.**
- 4: At which jurisdictional levels does protected area management occur?**
(Example: federal / provincial / municipal)
- 5: Which types of protected area governance does the national system recognize?**
(Example: indigenous / joint / private / government)
- 6: Please provide any other information, or reference to relevant sources of information, which you consider is key to understanding your country's protected area system.**

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PROTECTED AREAS COVERAGE

We would like to gather the data necessary to estimate the protected areas coverage of your country. Coverage is the percentage of a total area of land and/or territorial seas that is protected under national and international designations. This information will also be used to ensure that the information held within the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is up to date.

- 7: Please complete the following table:**

		Number	Total Area
Realm	Terrestrial		
	Marine (including coastal)		
National Protected Areas: IUCN Management Category	Ia: Strict Nature Reserve		
	Ib: Wilderness Area		
	II: National Park		
	III: National Monument or Feature		
	IV: Habitat/species management area		
	V: Protected Area with sustainable use		
	VI: Protected Landscape/ Seascape		
	Not Reported (NR)		
International Protected Areas	World Heritage		
	Ramsar		
	UNESCO MAB		
	Others		

DESIGNATIONS OF PROTECTED AREAS

We would like to better understand the process in place for assigning national designations to your country's protected areas.

- 8: How many unique national designations can be attributed to your country's protected areas?**
- 9: Which governmental body (or bodies) assign protected area designations?**

- 10: How are national designations assigned?**
- 11: Do you use the IUCN categorisation system³, and if so what is the process for attributing IUCN categories to designated protected areas?**
- 12: Please provide any other information, or reference to relevant sources of information, which you consider is key to understanding your country's designation process for protected areas.**

LEGISLATIONS ON PROTECTED AREAS

We would like to know which legislations and instruments in your country outline the management and governance of protected areas.

- 13: Please provide a list of key legislations and instruments directing the management and governance of your country's protected areas.**
- 14: Which national target(s) (or equivalent) of your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (or equivalent) contribute to the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11⁴?**
- 15: Is there a Strategy document guiding the future development of your protected areas system?**
- 16: Please provide any other information, or reference to relevant sources of information, which you consider is key to understanding your country's legislative framework for protected areas.**

³ The IUCN categories are an internationally recognized global system for defining and recording protected areas, often being incorporated into national legislation, based on the management of a protected area. For more information please consult: <http://www.biodiversitya-z.org/areas/34>

⁴ "By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes." (CBD Secretariat, 2012, Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets)

Annex 2: Regional divisions used in the report – Countries and map

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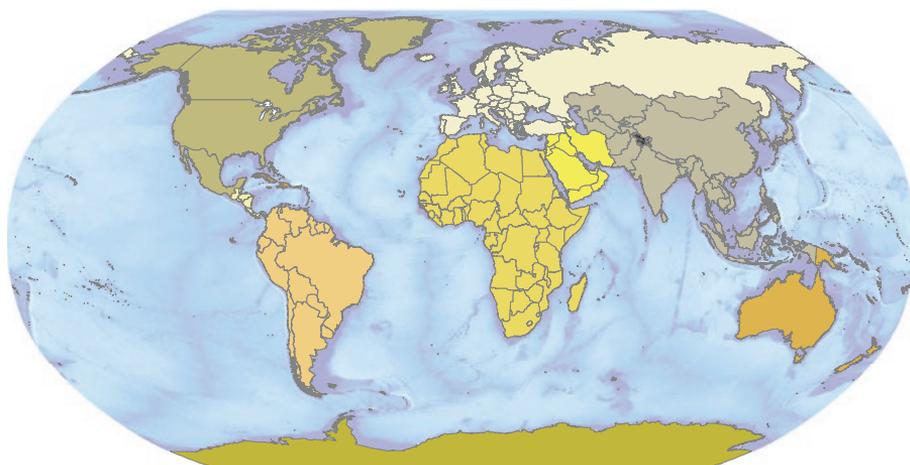


Figure 15: Map of the countries included in the regions used in the report

ABNJ: ABNJ

Africa: Angola, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo, Comoros, Cape Verde, Djibouti, Algeria, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Lesotho, Morocco, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Malawi, Mayotte, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Reunion, Rwanda, Sudan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sao Tome and Principe, Swaziland, Seychelles, Chad, Togo, Tunisia, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, India, British Indian Overseas Territories, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Cambodia, South Korea, Laos, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar, Mongolia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, North Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan, Vietnam

Caribbean: Aruba, Anguilla, , Antigua and Barbuda, Bonaire, Bahamas, Saint Barthelemy, Bermuda, Barbados, Cuba, Curaçao, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Saba, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin, Sint Eustatius Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Virgin British Islands, US Virgin Islands

Central America: Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador

Europe: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Switzerland, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Faroe Islands, Great Britain, Georgia, Gibraltar, Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Jersey, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Monaco, Republic of Moldova, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Svalbard and Jan Mayen, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, Vatican

Middle East: United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen

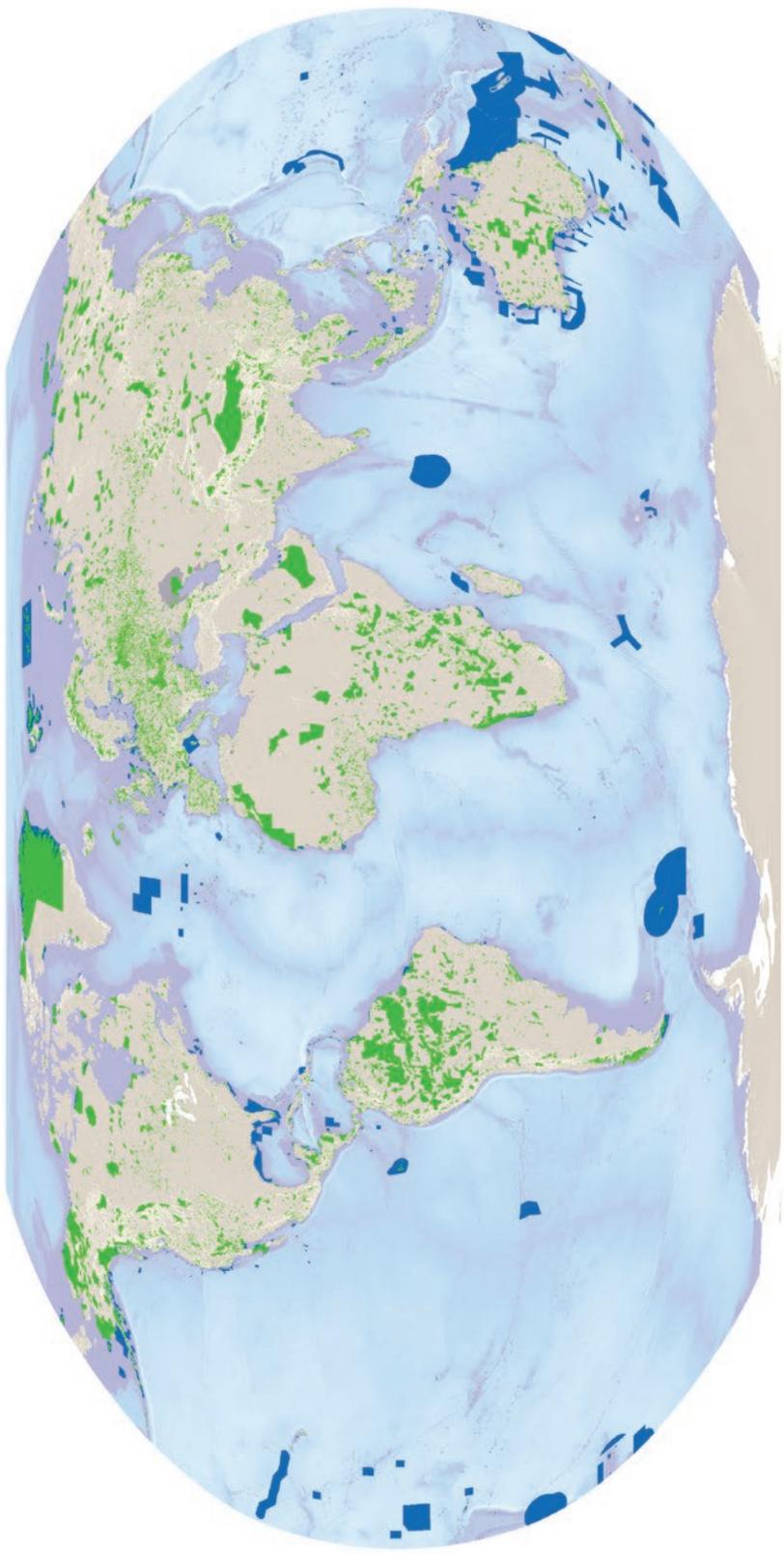
North America: Canada, Greenland, Mexico, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, USA

Oceania: American Samoa, Australia, Cocos Islands, Cook Islands, Christmas Island, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, Niue, Nauru, New Zealand, Pitcairn, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States Minor Outlying Islands, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa

South America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Paraguay, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela

Southern Oceans: Antarctic, French Southern Territories, Bouvet Island, Falkland Islands, Heard Island and McDonald Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Saint Helena

Annex 3: Summary of all protected areas recorded in the WDPA



NOTES

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