

WDPA Country Data Status Report

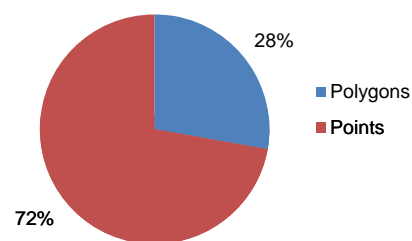
Cook Islands

The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is the most comprehensive spatial dataset on the world's marine and terrestrial protected areas, produced through a joint initiative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The WDPA contains the UN List of protected areas (official national data) as well as authoritative information sourced by non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, international convention secretariats and many others. The WDPA is used for reporting on global indicators and trends, ecological gap analysis, environmental impact analysis and is increasingly used for private sector decision-making. The WDPA is hosted and managed at the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

Protected Areas Data for the Cook Islands

There are 18 protected area records stored in the WDPA for the Cook Islands - there are no protected areas in the Cook Islands designated under international agreements or conventions recorded in the WDPA, with all 18 records being for national protected areas. 27.8% of the data have boundaries in polygon format, with the remaining 72.2% 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



National Data for the Cook Islands

Of the 18 protected areas, 14 (77.8%) include a marine component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment. IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 13 of the 18 national protected areas in the WDPA for the Cook Islands. The remaining 5 are recorded as Not Reported. Figure 2 shows the allocation of IUCN Management Categories across the WDPA data for the Cook Islands (numbers of sites in each category are shown in Table 2 at the end of this report).

Figure 2: National Protected Areas by IUCN Management Category

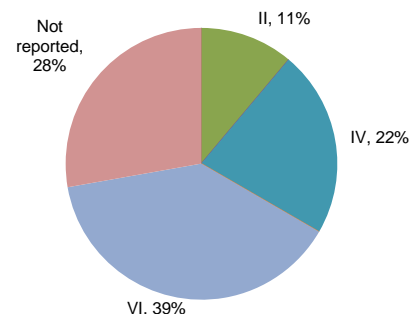
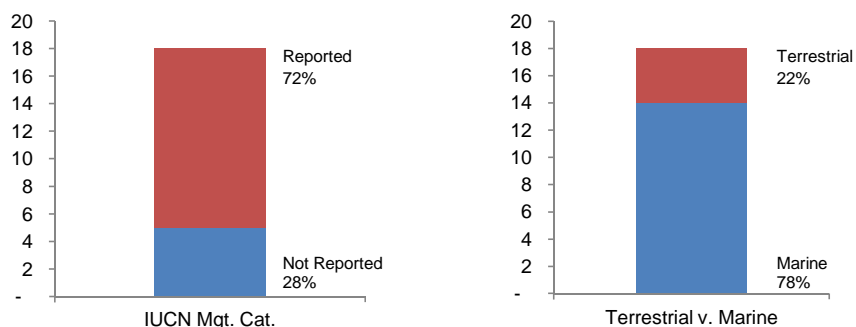


Figure 3 shows information on the 18 national protected areas in the WDPA for the Cook Islands.

Figure 3: Ratio of assignment of IUCN Management Category, and Terrestrial versus Marine sites for national protected areas data in the Cook Islands



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 the protected area records for the Cook Islands.

Table 1: Completeness of selected attributes

Attribute	Completeness
IUCN Category	72%
Status (designated or proposed)	89%
Status Year	83%
Governance Type	44%
Management Authority	11%
Link to Management Plan	0%

The Data Standard can be viewed at www.unep-wcmc.org/world-database-on-protected-areas-wdpa-data-standards_966.html

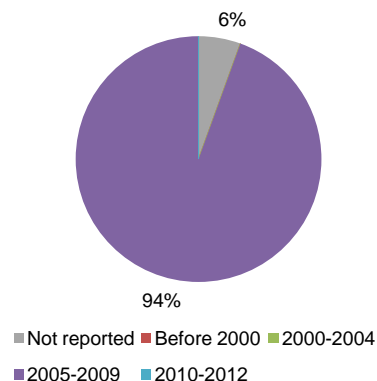
Data Sources for the Cook Islands

Data for protected areas in the Cook Islands have been obtained or validated from 3 sources.

Figure 4 shows the breakdown of when protected area records in the WDPA for the Cook Islands 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 Biosphere Programme.

Figure 4: Percentage of records updated or validated by year



Data for national protected areas in the Cook Islands have been sourced from national authorities wherever possible. Information may also be supplemented by data from other agencies or organisations working in the 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 is 1 record in the WDPA for the Cook Islands with no reported source.

Sources for national data in the Cook Islands include: (1) The WorldFish Center, Govan et al. 2009, & ReefBase (2008) Marine Managed Areas (MMAs). http://www.sprep.org/att/publication/000646_LMMA_report.pdf and <http://reefgis.reefbase.org>; (2) Research on Pacific region PAs by J. Axford, Nov 2005. Other sources: Ministère de l'écologie et du développement durable de France 2004. Les réponses en Nouvelle Calédonie;

The WDPA can be viewed and accessed online at www.protectedplanet.net

Table 2: WDPA Data for the Cook Islands

	Polygons	Points	Total
Realm: terrestrial or marine	5	13	18
Terrestrial	0	4	4
Marine (partially or completely)	5	9	14
Status: designated or proposed	5	13	18
Designated	5	9	14
Proposed	0	2	2
Status not reported	0	2	2
International Protected Areas	0	0	0
UNESCO World Heritage Sites	0	0	0
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	0	0	0
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0
National Protected Areas: IUCN Management Category	5	13	18
Ia	0	0	0
Ib	0	0	0
II	0	2	2
III	0	0	0
IV	1	3	4
V	0	0	0
VI	0	7	7
Not Reported	4	1	5
Total Records for the Cook Islands in the WDPA			18