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United Nations Environment Programme  
World Conservation Monitoring Centre  
(UNEP-WCMC)

# Data Standards

## World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

2012



### **About this document**

This document provides information about the standards and data held within the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). The WDPA Data Standards specify a common set of information that data providers are asked to provide when submitting data to the WDPA. These ensure that the most vital information is collected and that the data is supplied in a common format that is globally interoperable. This document also provides detailed information on the type of information and each attribute/field within the WDPA.

### **About UNEP-WCMC**

The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is the specialist biodiversity information and assessment centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), run collaboratively with WCMC, a charity based in Cambridge in the United Kingdom. UNEP-WCMC's mission is to evaluate and highlight the many values of biodiversity and put authoritative biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision-making. Since its establishment in the 1970s, the Centre has been at the forefront of the compilation, management, analysis and dissemination of global biodiversity information.

### **About IUCN**

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practices. IUCN's Programme on Protected Areas administers the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) - the world's premier network of protected area expertise - has over 1,400 members, spanning 140 countries. For more than 50 years, IUCN and WCPA have been at the forefront of global action on protected areas.

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## Section 1: Overview

The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is a joint project between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), managed by UNEP-WCMC in Cambridge, UK. In collaboration with governments, non-governmental organisations, academia and industry, it is the only global database of marine and terrestrial protected areas, comprising both spatial data (i.e. boundaries) and attribute data (i.e. descriptive information).

The past two decades of WDPA development have been centrally focused on obtaining and disseminating protected areas data for the global community and ensuring global interoperability. In accordance with the principles of Conservation Commons<sup>1</sup> and Open Geospatial Consortium Standards<sup>2</sup> the WDPA data is now available in the public domain, through a fully searchable and downloadable database at Protected Planet [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net).

***Our aim** is a common standard to allow the sharing of protected areas data between organizations, countries and industry ultimately resulting in a globally complete and accurate dataset for protected areas.*

There is a global priority to ensure that there is up-to-date and accurate information on protected areas. This is critical as protected areas provide powerful evidence of a nation's commitment to conservation and sustainable development and provides the framework for national reporting. The primary focus of the WDPA is the collation of the United Nations (UN) List of Protected Areas, an initiative mandated through the UN General Assembly (1963), and it is also used to report the progress towards targets, such as UN Millennium Development Goal 7 and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as providing support to relevant decision makers in government and industry.

The purpose of this document is to define the protected areas data standard and to describe the conditions of submitting data to the WDPA. **All data submissions and use of the WDPA are subject to the WDPA terms and conditions found on-line at [www.protectedplanet.net/termsandconditions](http://www.protectedplanet.net/termsandconditions)**

### Does My Data Meet the WDPA Standard?

For inclusion in the WDPA all data submissions must meet the following four requirements:

1. All protected areas must match the IUCN definition of a protected area
2. Spatial data must be provided, in shapefile format
3. The 'minimum' attributes must be completed
4. Source information must be provided



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<sup>1</sup> [www.conservationcommons.net](http://www.conservationcommons.net)

<sup>2</sup> [www.opengeospatial.org/standards](http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards)

## Section 2: The WDPa Data Standard: The Basics

**2.1** For any designated area to be included in the WDPa it must conform to the **IUCN definition of a protected area**, given herein:

**Definition**        *"A clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values."*<sup>4</sup>

**2.2** The **spatial boundaries** of protected areas should be provided as shapefiles in multipart polygon format, where possible. Where boundary data is unavailable, the central geographic point location (latitude and longitude) must be given as a reference point for the protected area instead. Therefore each protected area in the WDPa is either represented as a polygon boundary, or if unavailable, a point location. A maximum of two shapefiles should be submitted – one containing all the polygon data and the other all the point data for any protected areas without boundary data. The WDPa is based on Geographic Coordinate System: World Geodetic Survey (WGS) 1984, therefore all data should be submitted in this reference system. **A data submission will only be accepted if a geographic location is provided, preferably as a spatial boundary.**

**2.3** Attributes represent essential pieces of information about the spatial data that aid in the analysis, reporting and tracking of trends in the growth and coverage of the world's protected areas. There are a total of **22 attributes** associated with every protected areas in the WDPa, with these categorised as '*minimum*', '*core*' or '*enhanced*' attributes. The attributes are described and defined in Section 2 and Figure 1. A dataset is considered fully complete in the WDPa if it has spatial boundaries in polygon format and all the WDPa attributes are completed. **A data submission will only be accepted if the minimum attribute information is provided.**

**2.4** Recording accurate source information in the WDPa is important to ensure that ownership of the data is maintained and traceable. The WDPa Source Table conforms to the minimum geographic information and services standards as described by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)<sup>5</sup> (see Table 2). The minimum fields in the WDPa Source Table must be completed. Guidance and definitions on the source information requirements can be found in Section 4. **A data submission will only be accepted if the minimum source information is provided.**

Table 1 should be used as a reference for completing and understanding attribute requirements and Table 2 for source requirements. Should you have any further questions about the formatting or requirements, please do not hesitate to contact the WDPa Team at [protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org).

<sup>4</sup> Dudley, N. (Editor) (2008). Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. [www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa\\_puball/wcpa\\_pubsubject/wcpa\\_categoriespub/?1662/Guidelines-for-applying-protected-area-management-categories](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_puball/wcpa_pubsubject/wcpa_categoriespub/?1662/Guidelines-for-applying-protected-area-management-categories)

<sup>5</sup> ISO (2009) Standards Guide – ISO/TC 211 Geographic Information/Geomatics. 2009-06-01. [www.iso211.org/Outreach/ISO\\_TC\\_211\\_Standards\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.iso211.org/Outreach/ISO_TC_211_Standards_Guide.pdf)

## Section 3: Attributes

**3.1 Language Support** The WDPA supports multiple language characters for the names of protected areas in the 'Original Name' field only. All other attributes are recorded in Latin characters with the exception of the 'Designation (English)' attribute which must be recorded in English and 'Country' and 'Sub-National Location' attributes which must be recorded in ISO Code.

**3.2 Minimum Attributes** A 'minimum' attribute represents information that is required with any spatial data set to be integrated in the WDPA. There are 14 minimum attributes in the WDPA that form part of the core attributes. Note that Metadata ID, GIS Area and GIS Marine Area are the responsibility of UNEP-WCMC, while WDPA IDs and WDPA Parent IDs, where applicable, are the responsibility of the data provider. See Section 5.1 for further guidance on IDs. **New data submissions will only be accepted if WDPA IDs are included and all other minimum attributes are complete for every protected area in the dataset.**

**3.3 Core Attributes** A 'core' attribute represents any information that is considered a priority for analysis and reporting on protected areas and therefore are a priority for integrating in the WDPA. The core fields significantly enhance the capacity to conduct thorough analysis. Data providers are encouraged to submit this information in addition to the minimum required attributes.

**3.4 Enhanced Attributes** An 'enhanced' attribute represents information that is currently considered supplementary, specialized or difficult to obtain but nevertheless have been identified as key pieces of information. Information such as, management and governance can provide the legal backing to the IUCN management categories.

**3.5 A Complete Dataset** Data providers should strive to submit a complete dataset including all the minimum, core and enhanced attributes of the WDPA. Only with a complete dataset in the WDPA can a protected area's role in the context of the global protected areas network be fully assessed and understood.

A description of all attributes is detailed in **Table 1**, with full details of the values accepted in each attribute field in **Section 5**.



Figure 1: Attribute Requirements of WDPA. Attributes marked with an asterisk [\*] are assigned or calculated by UNEP-WCMC.

**Table 1: WDPA Attribute Fields**

Requirement	Field Name	Full Name	Attribute Definition
Minimum	WDPAID	WDPA ID	A unique identification number assigned by UNEP-WCMC. If a protected area has already been assigned a WDPA ID it should be included in update submissions. If a protected area is not already listed in the WDPA, UNEP-WCMC will assign new IDs and report those back to the data provider.
Minimum	WDPA_PID	WDPA Parent ID	Parent ID is assigned by UNEP-WCMC to legal zones of a protected area, therefore only records representing zones in the WDPA will have WDPA_PIDs. The WDPA ID of the overarching or 'parent' protected area becomes the WDPA Parent ID of the zone.
Minimum	NAME	Name	The name of the protected area provided in Latin characters (including accents). Numeric strings, addresses, acronyms and abbreviations are not accepted.
Core	ORIG_NAME	Original Name	The name of the protected area in any language supported by UTF 8 encoding.
Minimum	COUNTRY	Country	The country, territory or other administrative unit of geographical interest that a protected area jurisdictionally resides within, as given by its ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 code.
Core	SUB_LOC	Sub-national Location	The principle subdivision that a protected area geographically resides within, given by an ISO 3166-2 sub-national code, e.g. autonomous region, overseas territory, dependency, possession, etc. as long as it does not already have an ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 character code in which case it should be reported as a country.
Minimum	DESIG	Designation	The type of protected area as legally/officially established or recognised (e.g. Parque Nacional, World Heritage Site, etc.) supported by UTF 8 encoding.
Core	DESIG_ENG	English Designation	The type of protected area as legally/officially established or recognized translated into English.
Minimum	DESIG_TYPE	Designation Type	Describes whether a protected area is 'National' or 'International' by designation. International applies to protected areas designated under a convention, commission or regional agreement such as ASEAN Heritage, Barcelona, OSPAR, HELCOM, Natura2000, RAMSAR, UNESCO World Heritage or Man and Biosphere Programme.
Core	IUCN_CAT	IUCN Category	The classification of IUCN Management Category (Ia, Ib, II, III, IV, V or VI) adopted for national protected areas. For reporting on international protected areas the option of listing 'Not Applicable' is accepted. For national protected areas where an IUCN category has not been adopted 'Not Reported' can be listed.
Minimum	MARINE	Marine	Marine protected areas, as defined for the WDPA, encompass any portion of the marine environment in whole or in part according to a protected area's geographic location and management strategy. Either '1' for True or '0' for False. Mixed marine and terrestrial protected areas should be reported as '1'.
Minimum	REP_M_AREA	Reported Marine Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	If Marine is '1' a reported marine area must be given as the total marine extent of the protected area in square kilometres.
Minimum	REP_AREA	Reported Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Total protected area extent, including both marine (if applicable) and terrestrial areas in square kilometres.
Minimum	STATUS	Status	The current legal or 'official' standing of the protected area. Either 'Proposed' or 'Designated'.
Minimum	STATUS_YR	Status Year	The year in which the current status was officially decreed.
Enhanced	GOV_TYPE	Governance Type	A description of the governance structure of a protected area, written as one of the 11 governance sub-types, described in the IUCN Guidelines on protected areas.
Enhanced	MANG_AUTH	Management Authority	The organisation(s) or agency (ies) responsible for management of the protected area.
Enhanced	MANG_PLAN	Management Plan	Reference to an official management plan for the protected area as a link to the document(s) on-line or a full bibliographic reference.
Enhanced	NO_TAKE	No Take	Listed when part or all of a marine protected area is no take, meaning that the taking of fish or living resources is strictly prohibited in the no take area.
Enhanced	NO_TK_AREA	No Take Area	The total size of the no take area in square kilometres.

**Table 1 (continued): WDPA Attribute Fields assigned by UNEP-WCMC**

Requirement	Field Name	Full Name	Attribute Definition
UNEP-WCMC Assigned	METADATAID	Metadata ID	An ID assigned by UNEP-WCMC and is used to link source tables to WDPA shapefiles.
UNEP-WCMC Assigned	GIS_AREA	GIS Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	The GIS area calculated by UNEP-WCMC using the Mollweide projection. The reliability of the GIS area depends on the accuracy of the polygon provided, and hence can differ substantially from the Reported Area 'REP_AREA'.
UNEP-WCMC Assigned	GIS_M_AREA (if applicable)	GIS Marine Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	The reliability of a calculated marine area is dependent on accuracy of the polygon provided, and hence can differ substantially from the Reported Marine Area 'Rep_M_Area'. For mixed protected areas that are only partially marine the boundaries of the marine area may be submitted, if available, so that the GIS marine area can be calculated and included as 'GIS_M_Area'. The marine area is not stored as a separate record in the WDPA unless it is legitimately zoned.
UNEP-WCMC Assigned	INT_CRIT	International Criteria	Applicable only to World Heritage Sites where a set of criteria is used to define the protected area. For national protected areas this field is 'Not Applicable'.

## Section 4: Source Information

Source information includes details about the data provider, the spatial reference system and the year that the data was created. The following standards correspond to the minimum geographic information metadata standards as described by the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO).<sup>5</sup> A data submission will only be accepted if the minimum source information is provided.

**Table 2: Source Information Requirements**

Requirement	Title	Definition
Minimum	Data Set Title	The title of the dataset being provided as an update to the WDPA.
Minimum	Responsible Party	The organisation, consultancy, national government, private company or other entity that claims ownership/authorship of the data or that is providing the data on behalf of the ownership/authorship entity.
Minimum	Responsible Party Contact E-mails	Contact e-mails of person(s) and organisation(s) associated with the resource.
Minimum	Date	The reference date, as a four digit year, indicating when the dataset was last updated or created prior to inclusion in the WDPA.
Minimum	Dataset Language	Language(s) used within the dataset (before translation into English or transliteration into Latin characters).
Minimum	Dataset Character Set	Full name of the character coding standard used for the dataset.
Minimum	Coordinate System	Name and parameters of the coordinate system of the original dataset including where applicable, datum, ellipsoid or projection. The WDPA is based on Geographic Coordinate System: World Geodetic Survey (WGS) 1984.
Optional	Scale	The scale of the source data given as the denominator of the representative fraction. For example, on a scale of 1:150000, the denominator would be 150000.
Optional	Lineage	Information about an event, change or transformation in the life of a dataset including the process used to create and maintain the dataset including dates associated with each event.
Optional	Citation	Recommended text to be used referencing for the dataset on <a href="http://www.protectedplanet.net">www.protectedplanet.net</a> .
Optional	Disclaimer	Warnings/exceptions to use of the data, displayed on <a href="http://www.protectedplanet.net">www.protectedplanet.net</a> .

<sup>5</sup> ISO (2009) Standards Guide – ISO/TC 211 Geographic Information/Geomatics. 2009-06-01.  
[www.isotc211.org/Outreach/ISO\\_TC\\_211\\_Standards\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.isotc211.org/Outreach/ISO_TC_211_Standards_Guide.pdf)



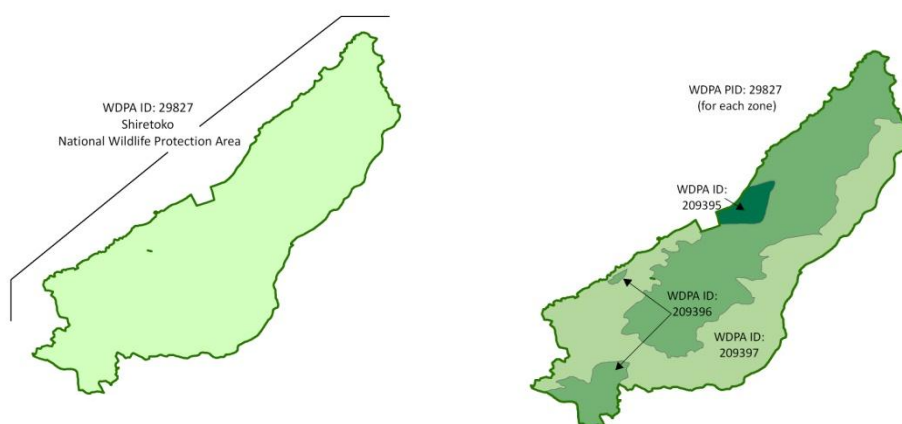
## Section 5: Supporting Guidance

**5.1** The WDPA uses unique identification numbers to accurately track protected areas within the database. UNEP-WCMC assigns a WDPA ID to each new protected area at its first listing in the WDPA. Once a protected area has been assigned a WDPA ID, it should be listed in national databases and provided with all subsequent updates to the WDPA for that protected area.

**5.2** Parent IDs were introduced to the WDPA in 2010 as planning for the integration of legitimate zones of protected areas. At the present time Parent IDs are not utilized in the WDPA, with the exception of protected areas that cross the international dateline. Where the boundary of a protected area crosses the international dateline it has been split for display purposes on a global coordinate system. In this case the Parent IDs are used to link two records representing a single protected area.

When zones are fully integrated into the WDPA, a Parent ID will be used to link a legitimate zone to its parent protected area. The WDPA ID for the 'parent' protected area will become a Parent ID for each of the associated zones. Each zone will also have its own WDPA ID. Figure 2 illustrates the use of Parent IDs. For more information on WDPA IDs or Parent IDs please contact [protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org)

**The data submission requirements for zones will be the same as for protected areas.**



**Figure 2:** Example of how WDPA PID is used to link a zone with its overarching or 'parent' protected area.

**5.3** The Name of a protected area in the WDPA is the nomenclature for which a protected area is known, not including the designation. We recognise that often the designation and the name are considered the legal title of the protected area, however for database and display purposes the name and designation need to be recorded in separate fields in the WDPA. The Original Name is the name of the protected areas in a non-Latin language (e.g. Chinese, Russian) or is the same as the Name field, if the name field is in a Latin language.

## Name

Accepted Values	Description
<i>Legal or Official Names in Latin characters</i>  <i>Examples:</i> Great Barrier Reef Smådaladn Montaña Cardón Sichuan Panda Sanctuary	The Name field is an open string field and any text is allowed, except for 'Unnamed', 'Unknown' or similar equivalents. Text must be provided in Latin format. Accented characters are accepted.

## Original Name

Accepted Values	Description
<i>Legal Names in Original Characters</i>  <i>Examples:</i> Great Barrier Reef 小苏干湖	The Original Name field is an open string field and any text is allowed, except for 'Unnamed', 'Unknown' or similar equivalents. All language characters are accepted provided they are supported by UTF 8 encoding.
Not Reported	If the Original Name is not given then this is listed as 'Not Reported'.

**5.4 Country** The country field is stored as an ISO-3 code, as defined by the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO).

Accepted Values	Description
<i>ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 code</i>  <i>Examples:</i> CHN FRA, BEL, DEU	A list of ISO-3 codes is accessible <a href="#">here</a> . If the protected area is trans-boundary (in more than one country), multiple ISO-3 codes can be listed separated by a comma.

**5.5 Sub-National Location** The sub-national location field is also stored as an ISO code, as defined by the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO).

Accepted Values	Description
<i>ISO 3166-2 sub-national code</i>  <i>Examples:</i> AD-07 GB-CAM, GB-SFK	The Sub-National Location field is stored as an ISO 3166-2 sub-national code. A list of ISO 3166-2 codes is accessible <a href="#">here</a> . If the protected area is in more than one state, province, region etc., multiple ISO-3166-2 codes can be listed separated by a comma.
Not Reported	If the Sub-National Location is not given or not known then this is listed as 'Not Reported'.

**5.6 Designation Type** The designation type is the category or type of protected area as legally/officially established or recognized.

Accepted Values	Description
National	Protected areas designated or proposed at the national or sub-national level.
International	Protected areas designated or proposed through international or regional conventions.

**5.7 Designation and English Designation** The designation and English designation detail the type of protected areas as legally/officially established or recognised. These fields are the same when the Designation is in English originally.

#### Designation

If Designation Type is:	Accepted Values	Description
National	<i>Text field</i> <i>Examples:</i> Parque Nacional Réserve Spéciale Nature Reserve	The Designation field is an open string text field for <b>National</b> protected areas (as specified by the Designation Type) and any text is allowed that is supported by UTF-8 encoding, except for 'Unnamed', 'Unknown' or similar equivalents.
International		<i>See English Designation below</i>

#### English Designation

If Designation Type is:	Accepted Values	Description
National	<i>Text field</i> <i>Examples:</i> National Park Nature Reserve	The English Designation field is the Designation field translated into English and an open string text field for <b>National</b> protected areas (as specified by the Designation Type) and any text is allowed, except for 'Unnamed', 'Unknown' or similar equivalents.
International	World Heritage Site	Protected areas designated under the World Heritage Convention
	Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)	Protected areas designated under the Ramsar Convention, otherwise known as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
	UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserve	Protected areas designated under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme - Network of Biosphere Reserves
	Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (Barcelona Convention)	Protected areas designated under the Barcelona Convention, otherwise known as the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution
	Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive)	Protected areas designated under the Habitats Directive and part of the Natura 2000 network in Europe
	Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)	Protected areas designated under the Birds Directive and part of the Natura 2000 network in Europe
	Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)	Protected areas designated under the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), otherwise known as the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission
	Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)	Protected areas in the high seas that form part of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas under the OSPAR Convention, otherwise known as the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic

	ASEAN Heritage Park	Protected areas designated under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Declaration on Heritage Parks
	Not Reported	If the English Designation is not given or not known then this is listed as 'Not Reported'.

**5.8 IUCN Category** The IUCN protected area management categories provide an international standard for categorising the management purpose of protected areas. Categorising protected areas under the IUCN categories assists in facilitating comparisons between countries and reducing the confusion that has arisen from the adoption of many different terms and designations that describe the same kind of protected areas in different parts of the world. Extensive guidelines on the IUCN categories are produced by IUCN.<sup>6</sup> In the WDPA the assigned IUCN category is recorded. Assigning IUCN categories to protected areas is encouraged, although their use is voluntary, and therefore not all protected areas have an IUCN category assigned to them.

If Designation Type is:	Accepted Values	Description
National	Ia	The IUCN Management Category assigned to the protected area – the categories are described within <i>Dudley, N. (Editor) (2008). Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.</i>
	Ib	
	II	
	III	
	IV	
	V	
	VI	
	Not Reported	For <b>national</b> protected areas where an IUCN category has not been assigned/adopted or is unknown, 'Not Reported' is listed.
International	Not Applicable	For <b>international</b> protected areas 'Not Applicable' is listed.

**5.9 Marine** A marine protected area is classified as marine (marine = '1') in the WDPA if part of its area falls within the fluid three-dimensional marine environment. Protected areas classified as marine within the WDPA can therefore be either completely marine – in a sea, ocean or equivalent – or partially marine – on the coast and encompassing part of the sea/ocean. Protected areas encompassing brackish or tidal waters should **not** be classified as marine – only protected areas that encompass saline waters should be classified as marine. The marine area in kilometres squared should always be able to be given if a protected area is classified as marine.

Accepted Values	Description
0	The protected area is completely within the terrestrial and/or freshwater environments.
1	The protected area is partially (coastal) or totally within the marine environment.

**6.0 Marine Reported Area and Reported Area** The marine reported area and reported area detail the size of the protected area in square kilometres.

## Marine Reported Area

Accepted Values	Description
<i>Number field</i>	The Marine Reported Area field is a number and any number is allowed. The Marine Reported Area is the area of the protected area that is within the marine environment and is always less than or equal to the Reported Area field.
0	If there is no marine area, the Marine Reported Area is listed as '0'.

## Reported Area

Accepted Values	Description
<i>Number field</i>	The Reported Area field is a number and any number is allowed. The Reported Area is the <b>total</b> area of the protected area, including both the terrestrial and marine environments, and is always greater than or equal to the Reported Marine Area field.

- 6.1 Status and Status Year** All protected areas in the WDPA are either listed as 'Designated' or 'Proposed'. Protected areas that have been degazetted are not included within the WDPA. Degazetted areas are those protected areas that are no longer legally protected or recognised, and hence the protected area no longer exists administratively. The status year is the year that the current status of the protected came into force, i.e. the year that it was proposed as a protected area, or the year it was designated as a protected area.

## Status

Accepted Values	Description
Proposed	Is in a process to gain recognition or dedication through legal or other effective means.
Designated	Is recognized or dedicated through legal or other effective means. Implies specific binding commitment to conservation in the long term.

## Status Year

Accepted Values	Description
<i>Number field</i>	The year in which the protected area was proposed (if Status is listed as 'Proposed') or designated (if Status is listed as 'Designated'). The year cannot be in the future – it is always a year in the past or the current year.

- 6.2 Governance Type** Governance is a description of the decision-making structure of a protected area and should describe where the decision-making power of delegating management authority rests. The governance of a protected area legally sets out the authority responsible and accountable for managing the protected area. Reporting on governance type as well as management authority will greatly enhance comparisons of protected areas and their management effectiveness.

The information provided on governance should conform to the Governance Matrix as set out and described by the IUCN Protected Area Guidelines. IUCN distinguishes four broad protected area governance types, each with three sub-types (**see below**). One of the 11 governance sub-types should be assigned in the 'Governance Type' field of each protected

area record. For more information on the IUCN Governance Matrix please refer to the Guidelines for Applying Protected Areas Management Categories.<sup>6</sup>

<i>Governance Sub-Type</i>	<i>Governance Type</i>
Accepted Values	
Federal or national ministry or agency	Governance by Government
Sub-national ministry or agency	
Government delegated management	
Transboundary management	Shared Governance
Collaborative management	
Joint management	
Individual landowners	Private Governance
Non-profit organisations	
For profit organisations	
Indigenous peoples	Governance by Indigenous Peoples and/or Local Communities
Local communities	
Not Reported	If the Governance Type is not known or not given then this is listed as 'Not Reported'.

### 6.3 Management Authority

The management authority is the agency, organization or group that manages the protected area, has responsibility for it and can be held accountable for that area. The management authority listed in the WDPA should relate to the governance type. For example, if the national ministry of environment is listed as the management authority, then the governance type should correspond to this and be 'Federal or national ministry or agency'.

Accepted Values	Description
<i>Text field</i>	The Management Authority is an open string field and any text is allowed, except for 'Unnamed', 'Unknown' or similar equivalents – if unknown then 'Not Reported' should be listed instead.
Not Reported	If the Management Authority is not known or not given then this is listed as 'Not Reported'.

### 6.4 Management Plan

The management plan is a link to the URL of where the management plan is stored online.

Accepted Values	Description
<i>Text field</i>  <i>Examples:</i> <a href="http://www.adias-uae.com/publications/Hawar-MP.pdf">www.adias-uae.com/publications/Hawar-MP.pdf</a>	The Management Plan is an open string field and any text is allowed. The Management Plan is always a URL link to a webpage and should begin with https:// or www.

<sup>6</sup> Dudley, N. (Editor) (2008). Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. [www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa\\_puball/wcpa\\_pubssubject/wcpa\\_categoriespub/?1662/Guidelines-for-applying-protected-area-management-categories](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_puball/wcpa_pubssubject/wcpa_categoriespub/?1662/Guidelines-for-applying-protected-area-management-categories)

<a href="http://www.phoenixislands.org/pdf/2010-2014_FINAL_PIPA_Management_Plan.pdf">http://www.phoenixislands.org/pdf/2010-2014_FINAL_PIPA_Management_Plan.pdf</a>	
Not Reported	If the Management Plan is not known or not given then this is listed as 'Not Reported'.

**6.5 No Take** No take means that the taking of fish or living resources is strictly prohibited in all or part of this area. This is only applicable to protected areas where the marine field = 1. The objective of protected areas which are all no-take is preservation of the biodiversity and other values in a strictly protected area. No-take zones are also commonly designated within multiple-use marine protected areas.

If Marine is:	Accepted Values	Description
1	All	For marine protected areas, No Take is listed if all, part or none of the protected area is no take.
	Part	
	None	
	Not Reported	For marine protected areas where it is not known whether there is no take, 'Not Reported' is listed.
0	Not Applicable	For <b>non-marine</b> protected areas 'Not Applicable' is listed.

**6.6 No Take Area** The no take area is the total extent of the area in square kilometres where the taking of fish or living resources is prohibited, as reported to UNEP-WCMC by the data provider.

Accepted Values	Description
<i>Number field</i>	The No Take Area is the area of the protected area in square kilometres that is within the marine environment and is no take. It is less than or equal to the Marine Reported Area field.
0	If there is not a no take area, the No Take Area is listed as '0'.