



# World Database on Protected Areas

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## Outline

- ◆ About UNEP-WCMC
- ◆ World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)
- ◆ How is it used?
- ◆ Where does the data come from?
- ◆ Standards
- ◆ What happens after data goes to the United Nations?
- ◆ Why should Canada care?



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# United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

- ◆ About UNEP-WCMC:
  - Biodiversity arm of the United Nations Environment Programme
  - Located in city of Cambridge in the United Kingdom
  - 80 scientific and technical staff
- ◆ UNEP-WCMC mission
  - To evaluate and highlight the many values of biodiversity and put authoritative biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision-making.



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- ◆ Six Programmes
  1. Protected Areas
  2. Ecosystem Assessment
  3. Convention (MEA) support
  4. One Ocean
  5. Climate Change
  6. Informatics
- ◆ What do we do?
  - Policy analysis
  - Support to multi-lateral environmental agreements
  - Private sector support



# World Database on Protected Areas



Only global inventory of the world's protected areas

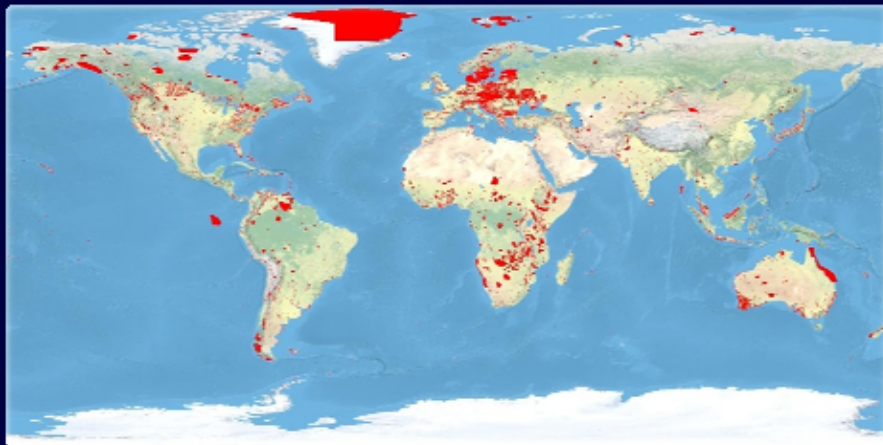
WDPA 25 years old

Today over 135,000 protected areas

Sites from national governments, NGOs, international conventions

A joint project of UNEP & IUCN managed by UNPP WCMC

<http://www.wdpa.org>



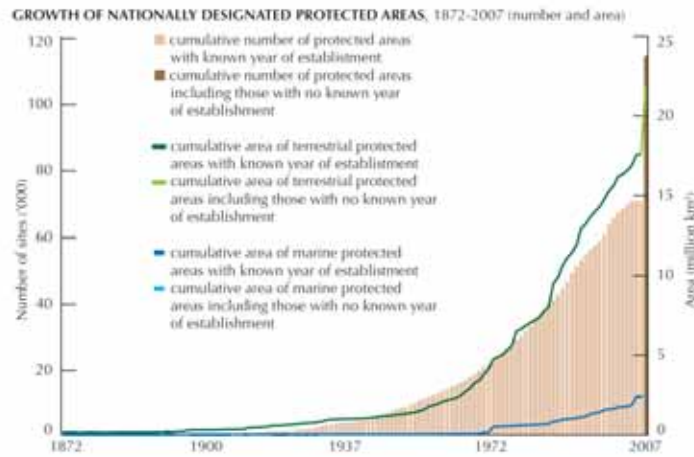
## The Worlds Protected Areas

1980: 40,000 protected areas covering 7,000,000 km<sup>2</sup>  
2009: 135,000 protected areas covering 19,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> +

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## Global Protected Area Coverage Over Time



World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), January 2008



How is it used?



Environmental impact analysis

Science, policy article, Sept 2009

### Tracking Progress Toward the 2010 Biodiversity Target and Beyond

**Background**  
 The progress toward the 2010 Biodiversity Target and beyond is being tracked in a new report from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The report, titled "Tracking Progress Toward the 2010 Biodiversity Target and Beyond," is the first comprehensive assessment of the world's progress toward the target. It is based on data from 180 countries and territories, and covers the period from 2002 to 2008. The report is the first to provide a global overview of the progress toward the target, and to identify the key areas where progress has been made and where it has not. It also provides a detailed analysis of the progress toward the target in each of the eight areas of the target, and identifies the key factors that are influencing progress. The report is a key document for the CBD and IUCN, and is also a valuable resource for other organizations and individuals interested in biodiversity conservation.



Ecological gap analysis



### The Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development



## as basis for global priority setting

**Toward representative protection of the world's coasts and oceans—progress, gaps, and opportunities.** *Conservation Letters* 2008

**Global Ecoregion Protection.** Published in Protected Areas Annual Report: UNEP-WCMC 2008

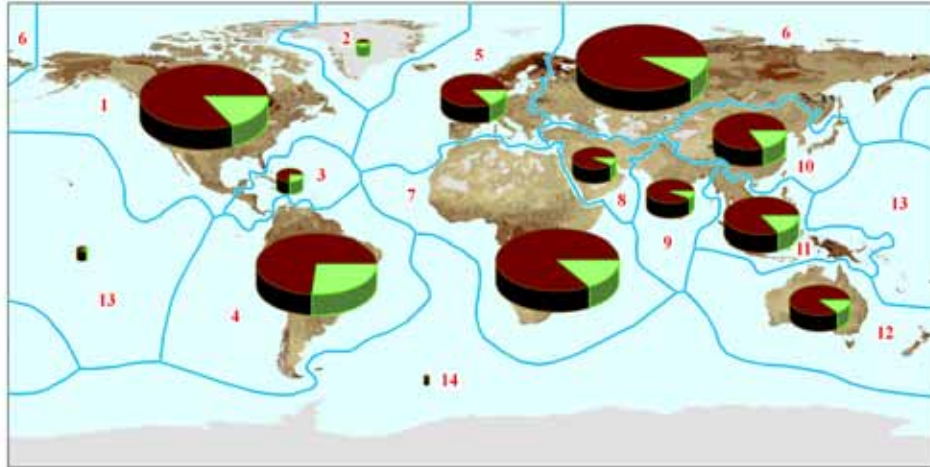
**Working Toward High Seas Marine Protected Areas.** An Assessment of Progress Made and Recommendations for Collaboration. UNEP-WCMC 2008

**Global analysis of the protection status of the world's forests.** *Biological Conservation* 2009

All analyses summarised in Annual Report on Protected Areas, January 2008 and based on WDPA data



## Global protected carbon



15.2% of global terrestrial carbon stocks are protected

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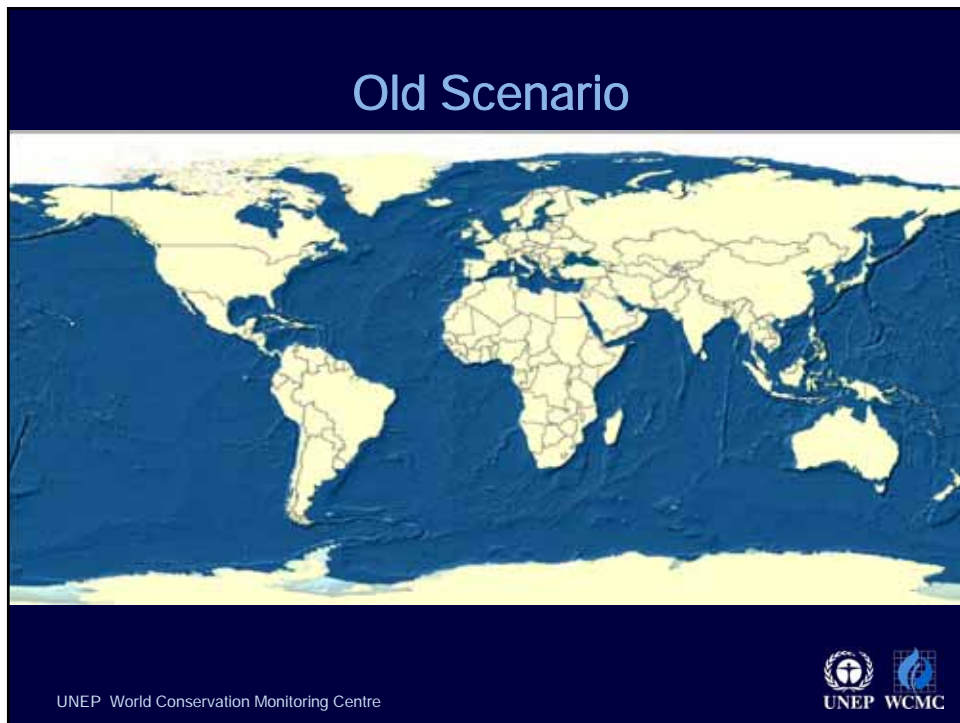
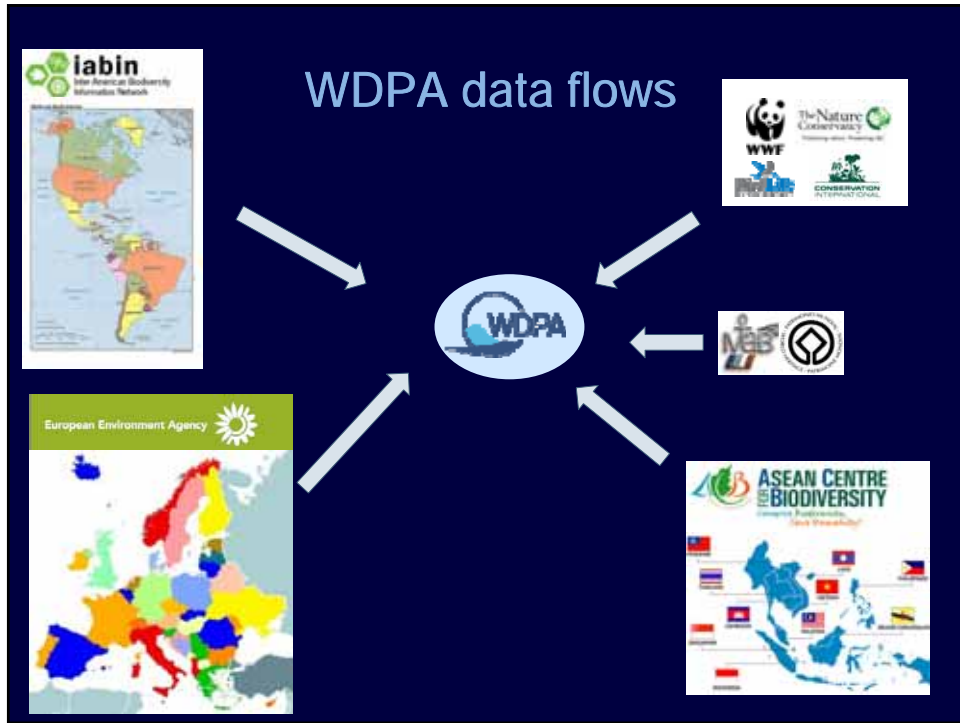


Where does all the data come from?

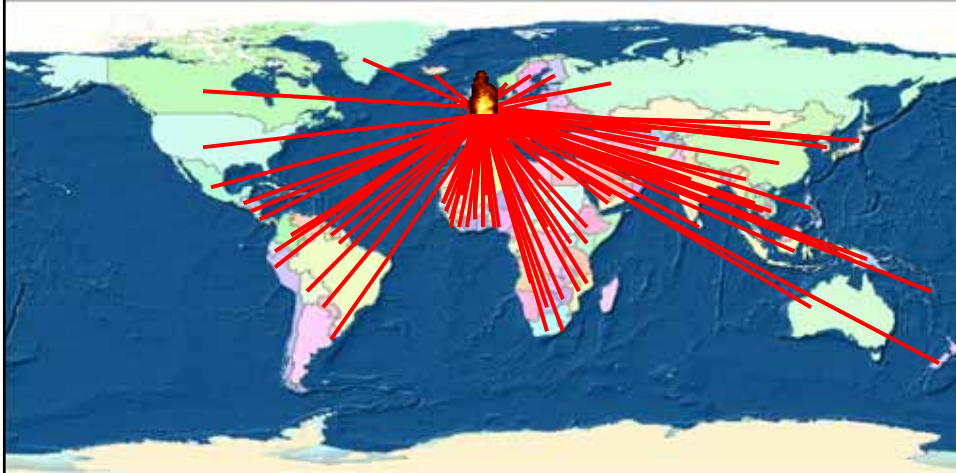


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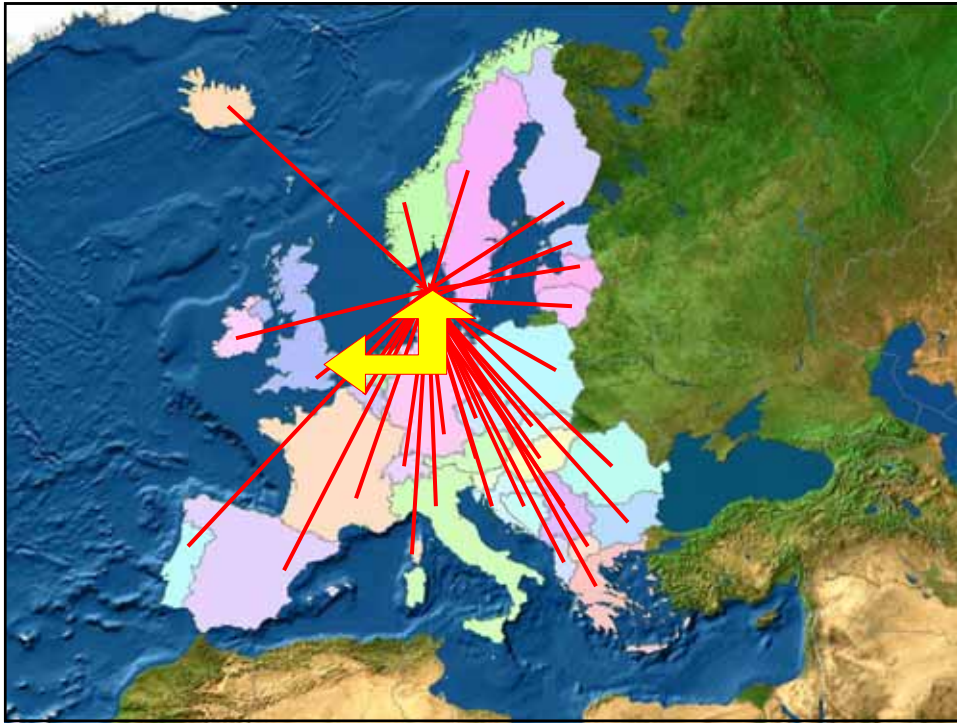
# Old Scenario



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## WDPA Standards



# WDPA Standards

## 1. Protected Area definition from IUCN:

*"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."*



## 2. IUCN PA Category System:

Ia	Strict Nature Reserve
Ib	Wilderness area
II	National Park
III	Natural monument or feature
IV	Habitat/species management area
V	Protected landscape/seascape
VI	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources

# International protected area standards

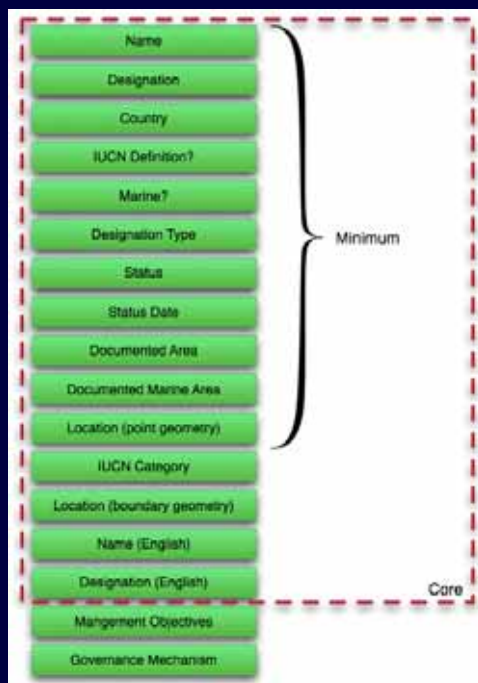
## ◆ What's the value proposition?

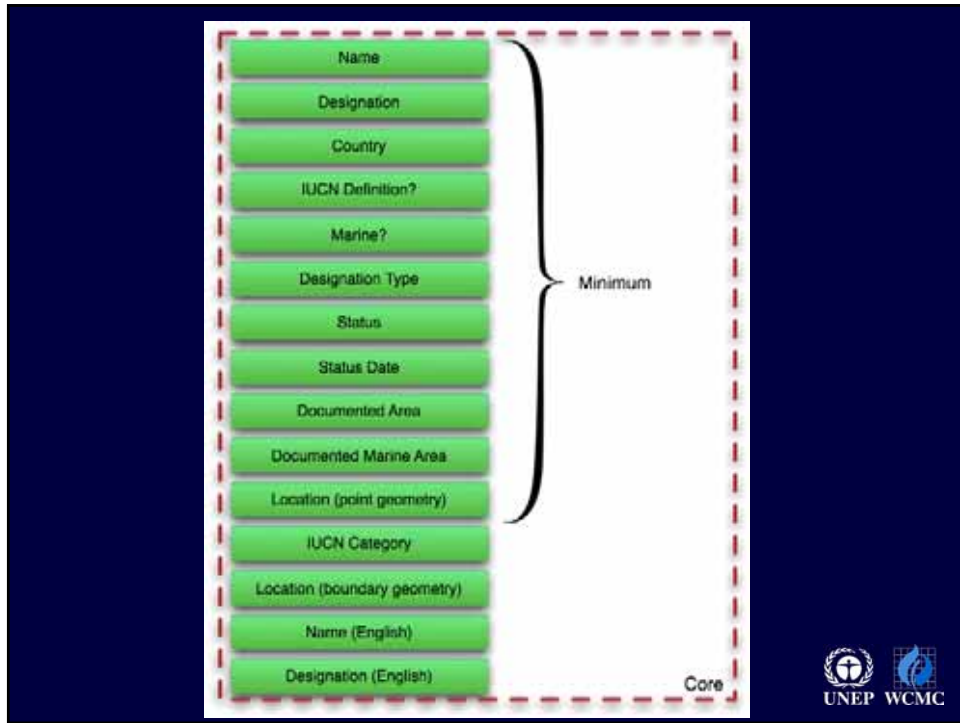
- It's a "common language"
- Allows for comparisons across countries, regions
- Only way to do international analyses
- Not necessary to adopt the category system
- At a minimum, a translation system needs to be developed ("cross-walk")



## Minimum Standards (mandatory to get into the WDPA)

Name  
Designation  
Country  
Status  
Status Date  
Marine (Does the site contain a Marine element)  
Documented Area  
Documented Marine Area  
Location (geometry)





What happens to the data after it goes to the UN?



## What becomes of the data?

- ◆ Goes through GIS validation system
- ◆ Geometry available for download through WDPA portals (GIS Shape file or KML)
- ◆ Can be viewed through Google Earth directly or through Protect Planet Ocean



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## Why should Canada care?



# Mandates

- ◆ UN General Assembly resolution of 1962 created first UN List of protected areas
- ◆ Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas
  - Suggests that Parties:
    - Improve and update national and regional databases on protected areas and consolidate the World Database on Protected Areas as key support mechanisms in the assessment and monitoring of protected area status and trends
    - Participate in the World Database on Protected Areas maintained by UNEP-WCMC, and the United Nations List of Protected Areas and the State of the World's Protected Areas assessment process
- ◆ IUCN World Parks Congress
  - Recommendation 5.4
    - request the continuation of the process to enhance the quality of the data, and making it publicly available and accessible
    - Urges parties to CBD to provide annual updates to the WDPA
  - Recommendation 5.19
    - Category assignments in the WDPA
- ◆ IUCN World Conservation Congress
  - Too many to list!

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Moving  
forward



## Provincial to Global

- ◆ Provinces apply standards or translate data
- ◆ CARTS aggregates all protected area information
- ◆ Data available to Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)
- ◆ CEC becomes interoperable with World Database on Protected Areas
- ◆ Periodic (yearly) updates

## Possible Canadian benefits

- ◆ Put Canadian protection efforts on the global map
- ◆ Expensive technology development free for Canadians to use
- ◆ Contributing to global effort

