Protected Planet and the World Database on Protected Areas

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UNEP WCMC

IUCN WCPA WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS

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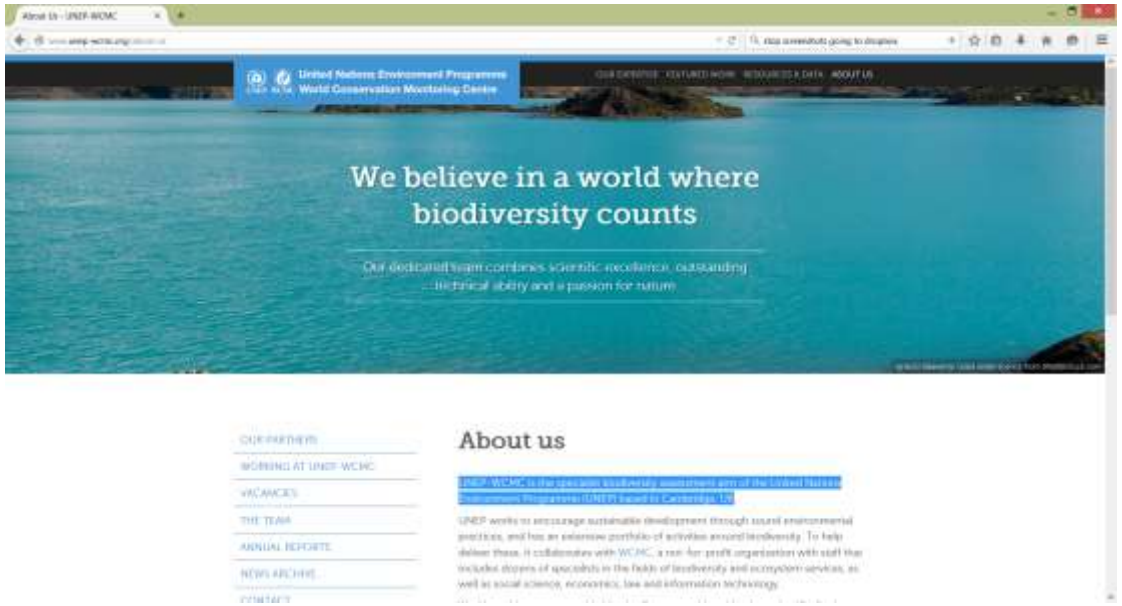
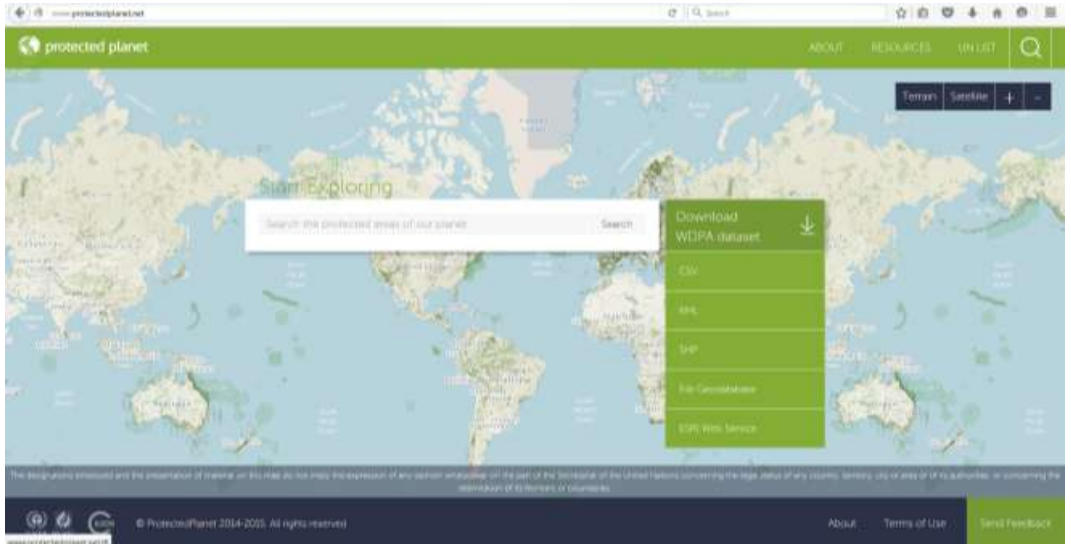
UNEP-WCMC is the specialist biodiversity assessment arm of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) based in Cambridge, UK.





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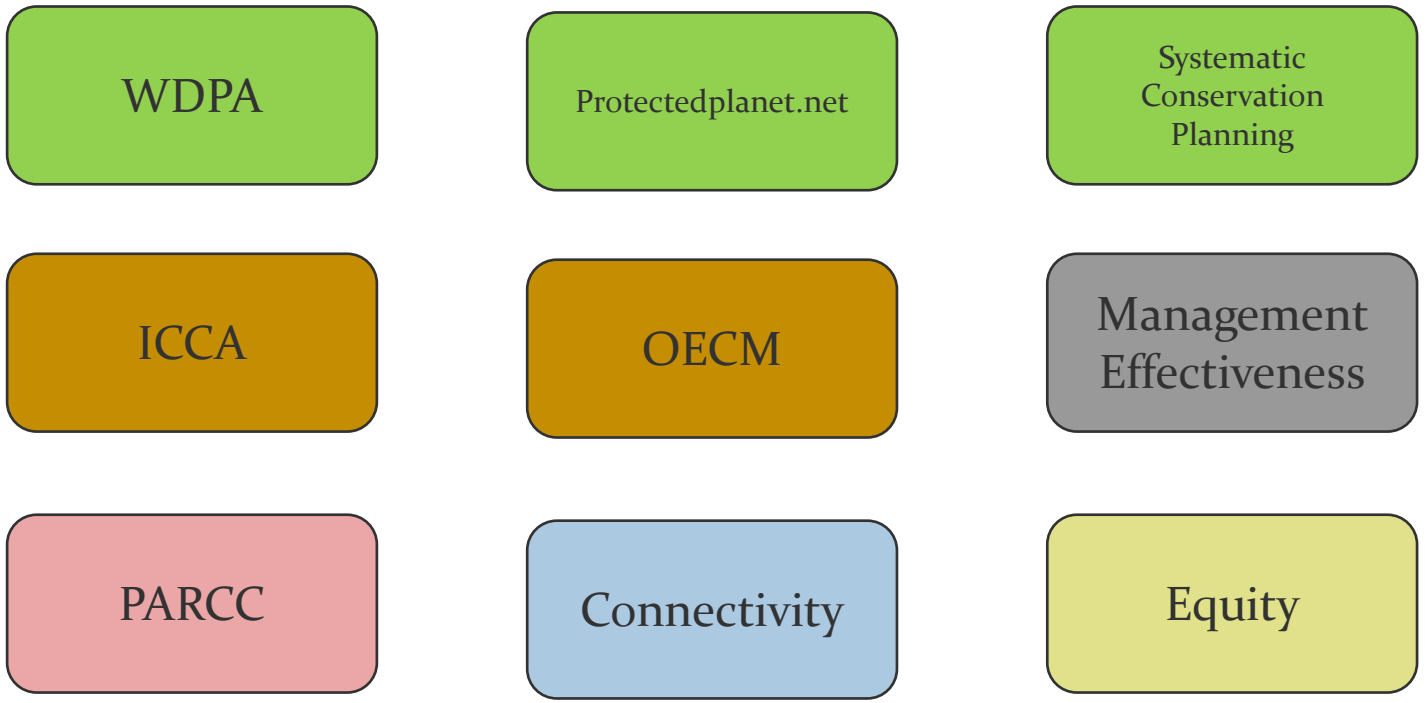
The Protected Areas Programme works on all aspects of Target 11. The main areas of work are:



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WDPA

The only global authoritative **database** on terrestrial and marine **protected areas**.

A joint initiative between the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (**IUCN**).

Compiled and managed by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (**UNEP-WCMC**) in collaboration with governments and non-governmental organizations

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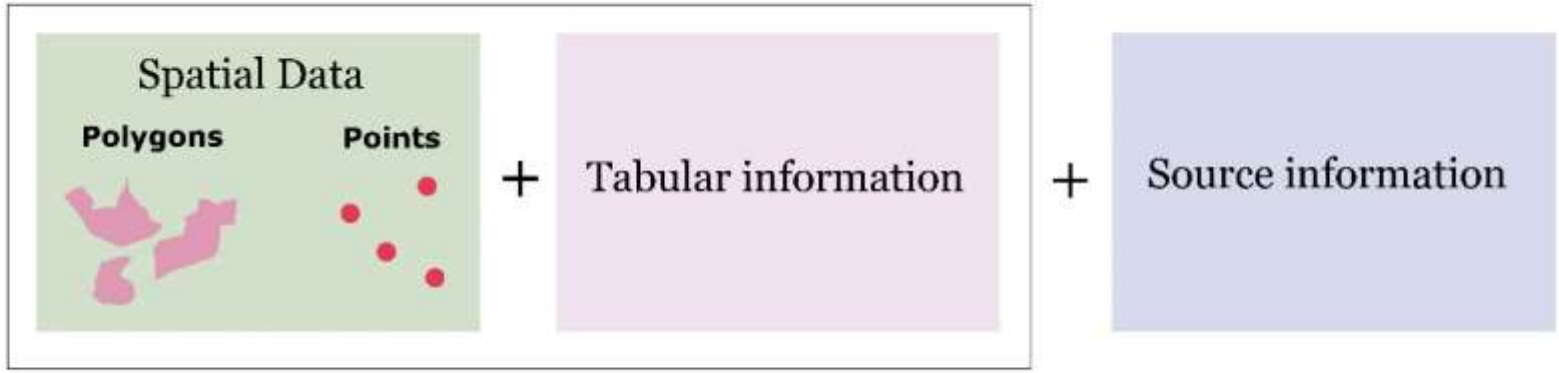
*"A **protected area** is a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values."*

Dudley, N. (ed.) (2008) Guidelines for Appling Protected Areas Management Categories. IUCN:

WDPA = 

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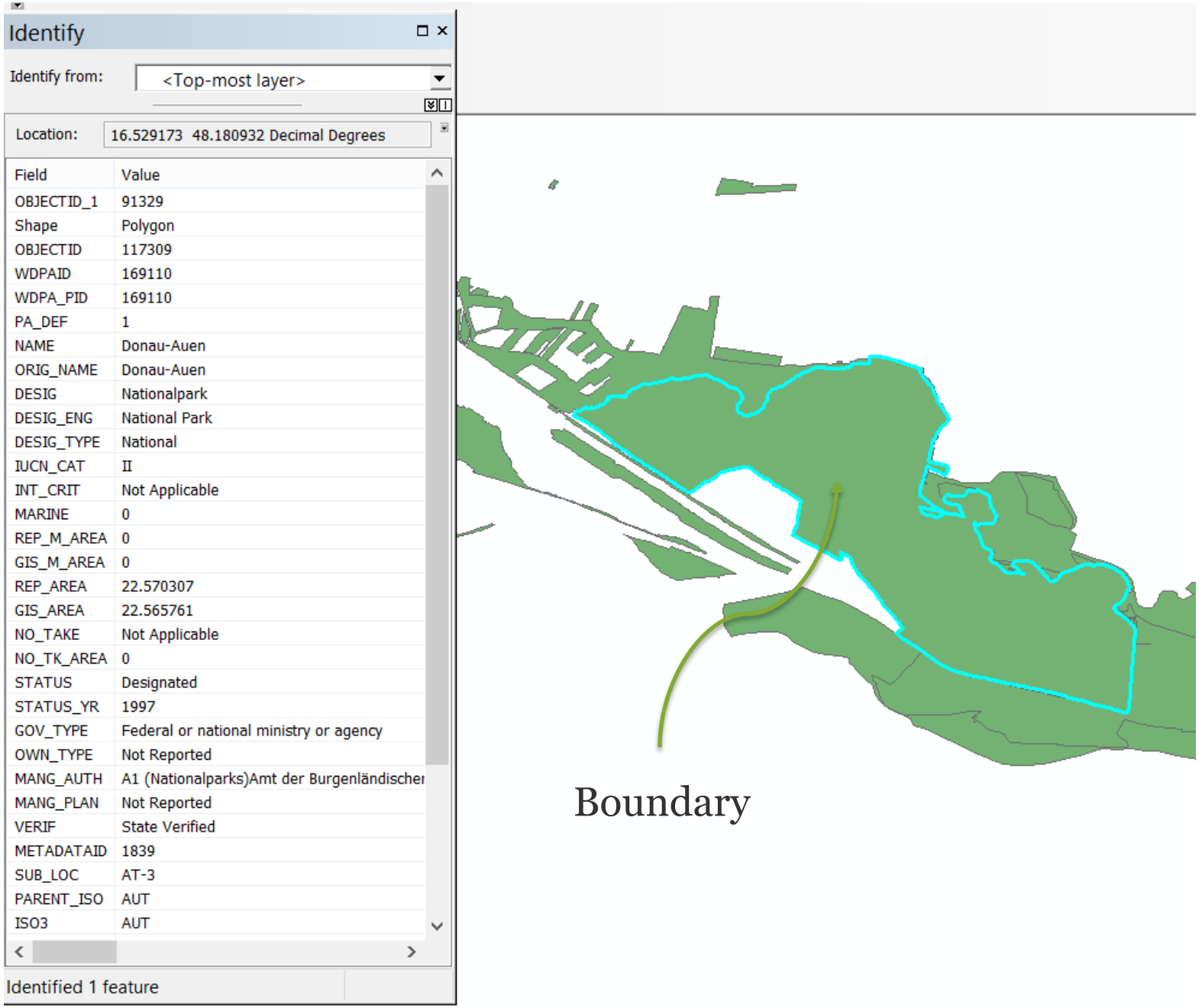
Attributes



Boundary

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Contains sites designated at the:

National level

Regional level: e.g. Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance

International level: Ramsar Site, Wetland of International Importance, UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage Site

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History

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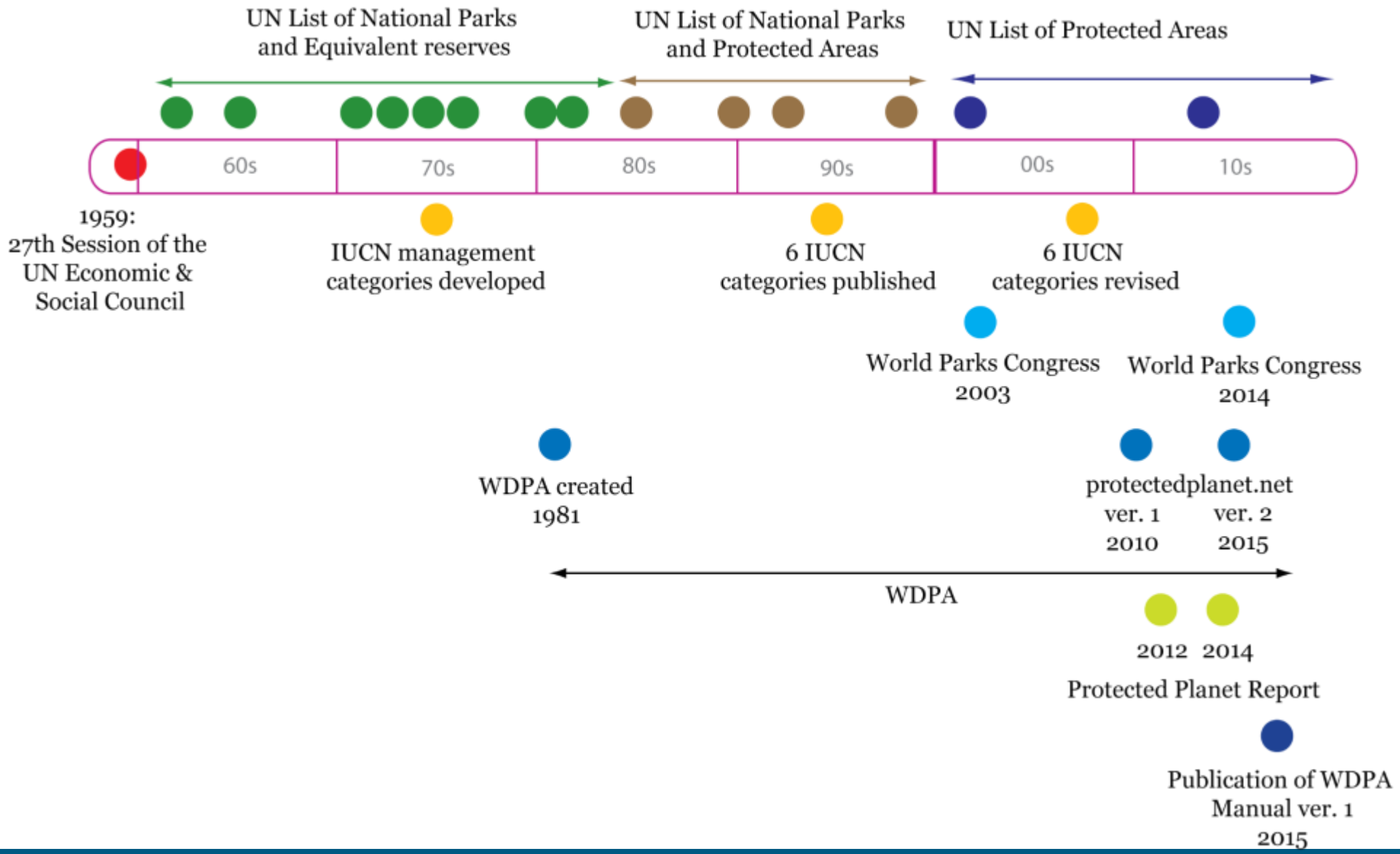

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WDPA March 2016

220 670 records

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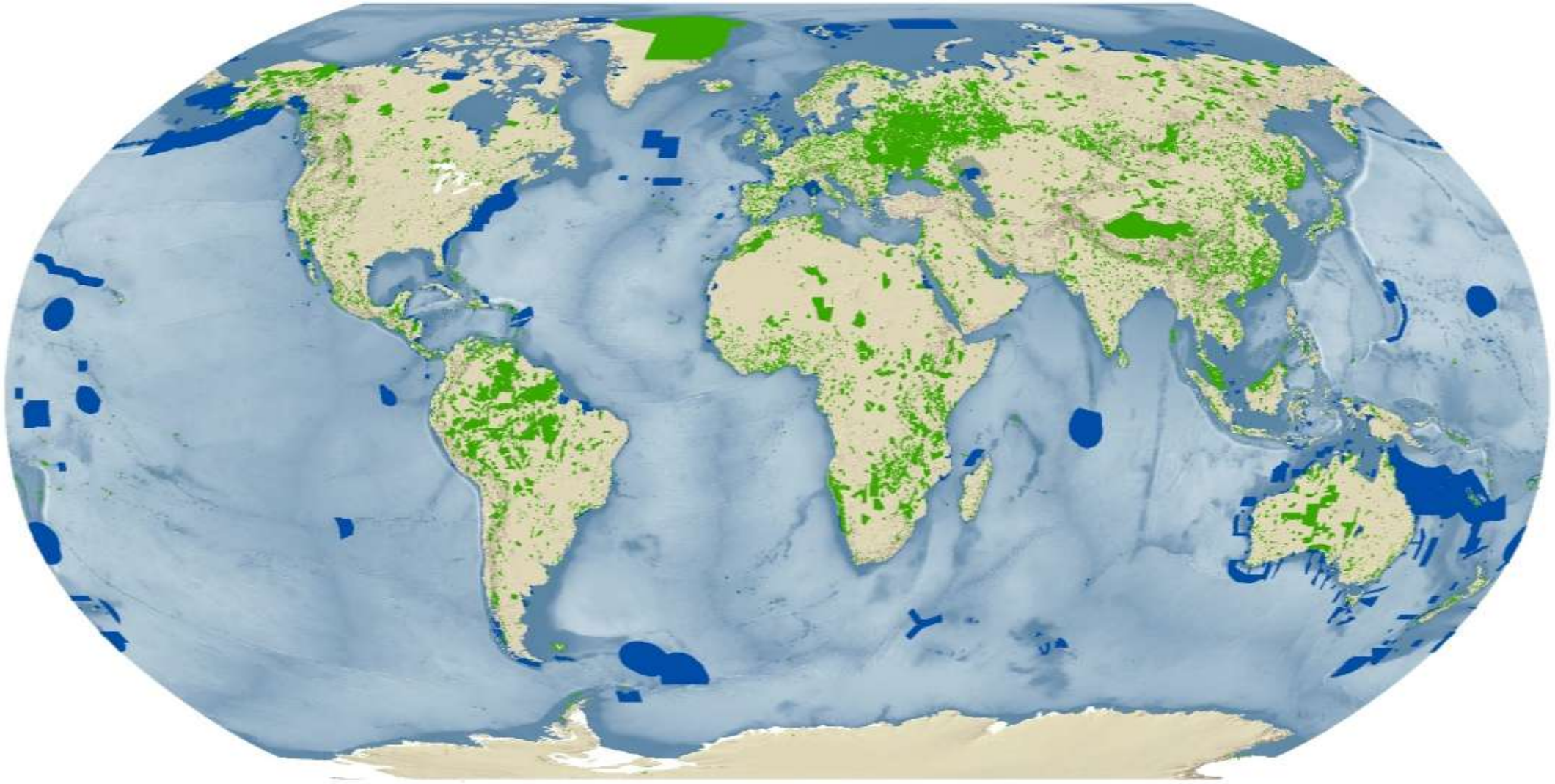
Over 220,000 records from over 245 countries and territories

Over 18 300 records have a marine component



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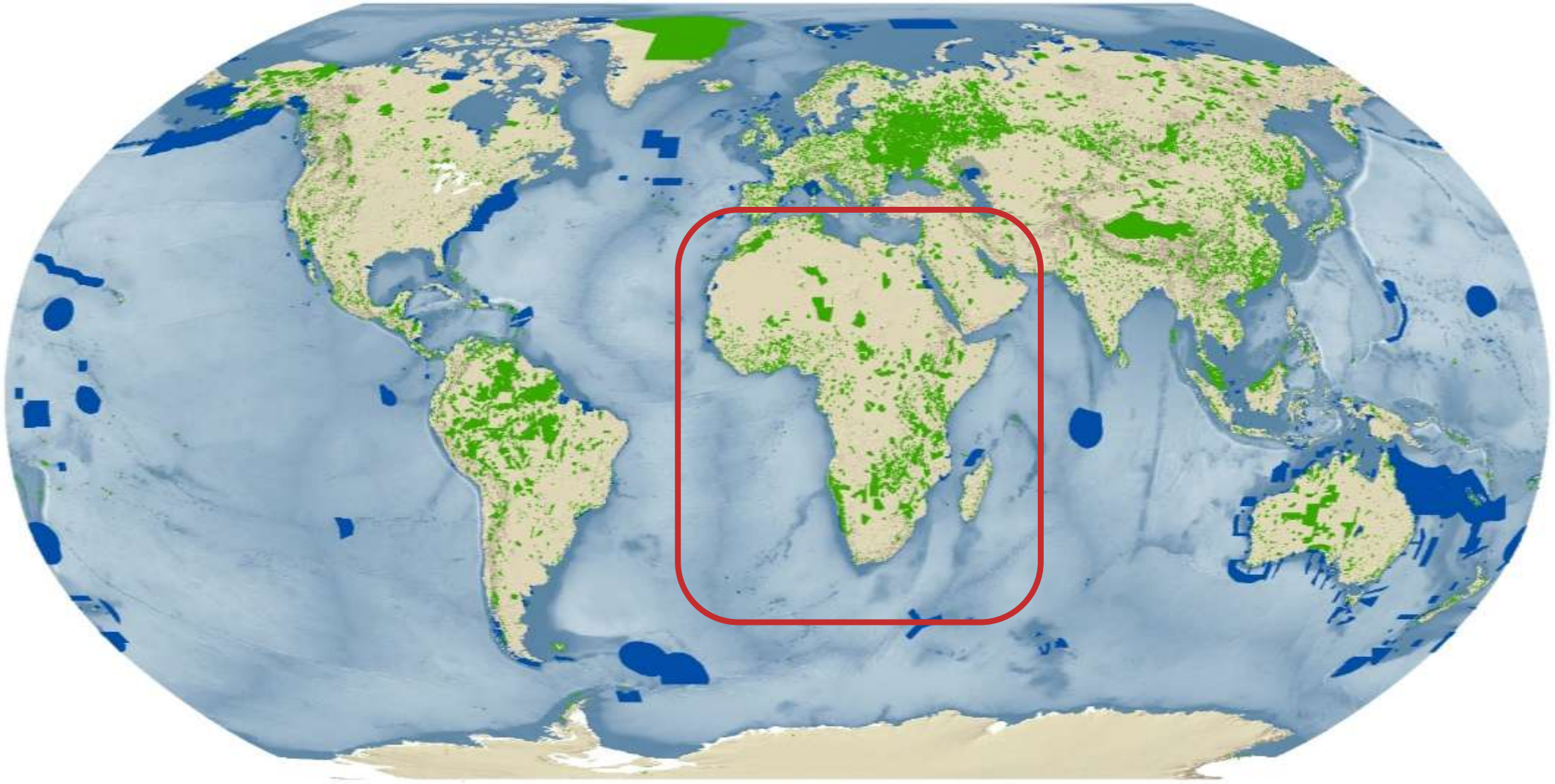

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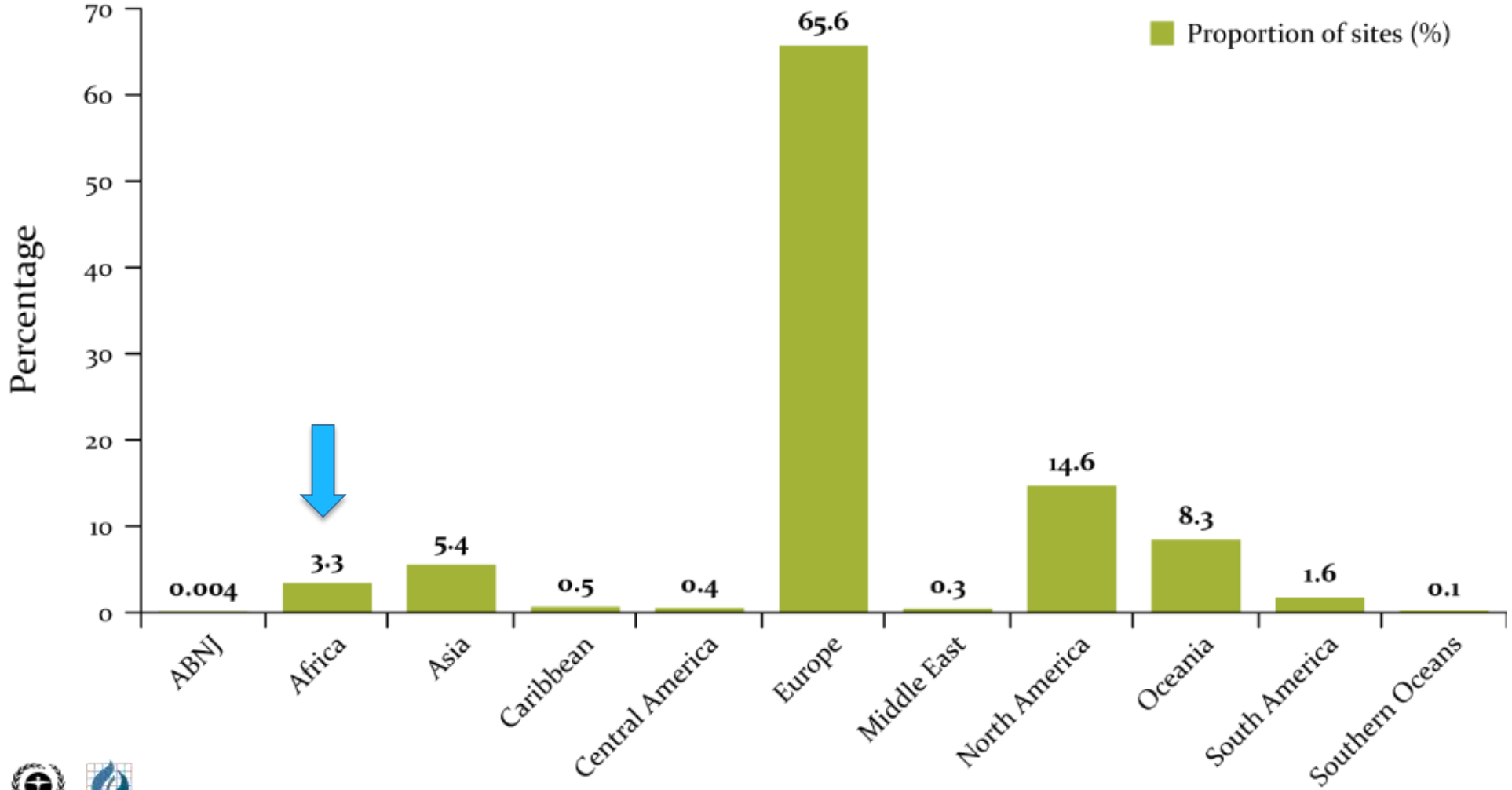
Where are sites?

Number of Sites



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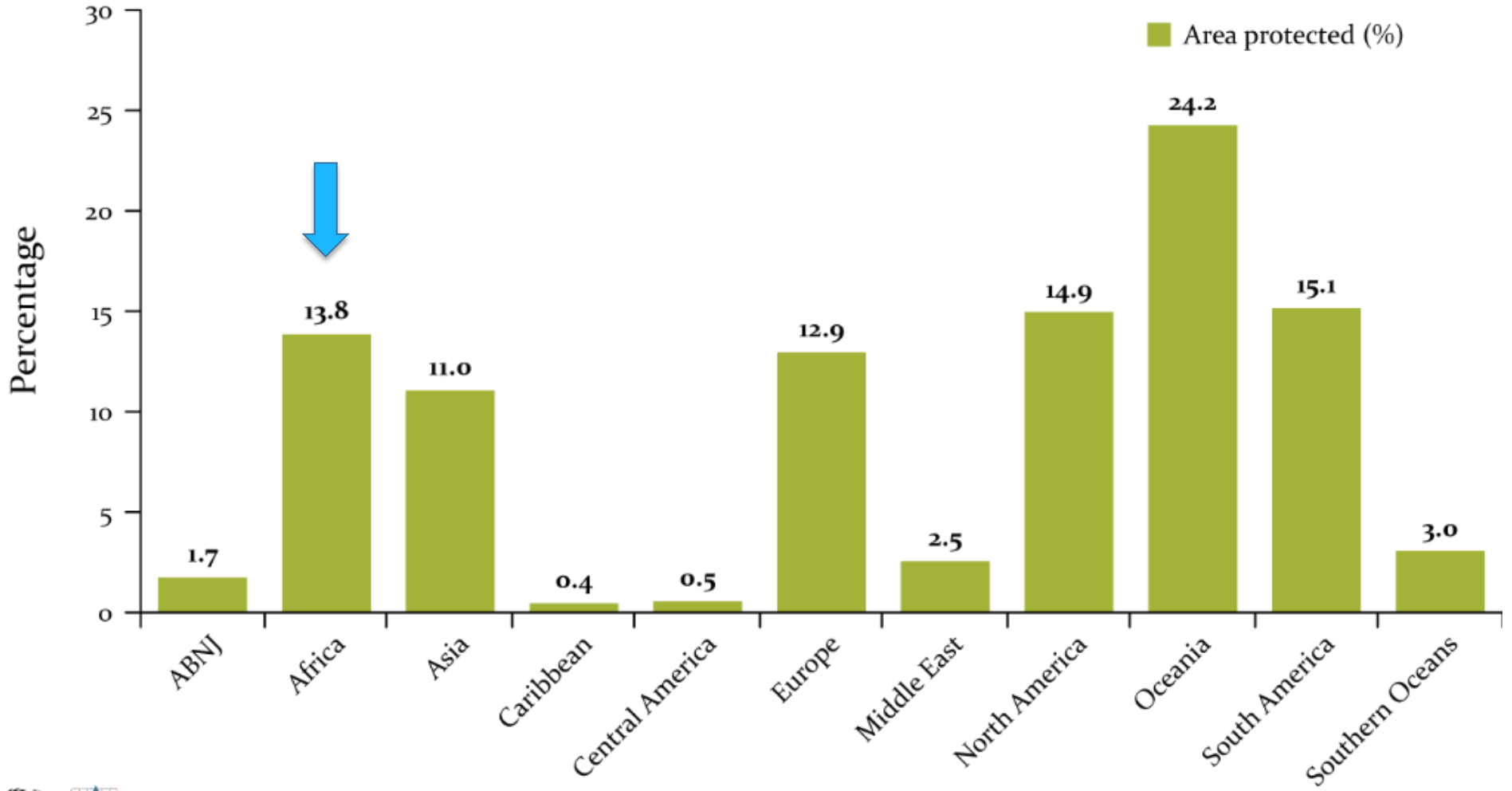
By Area



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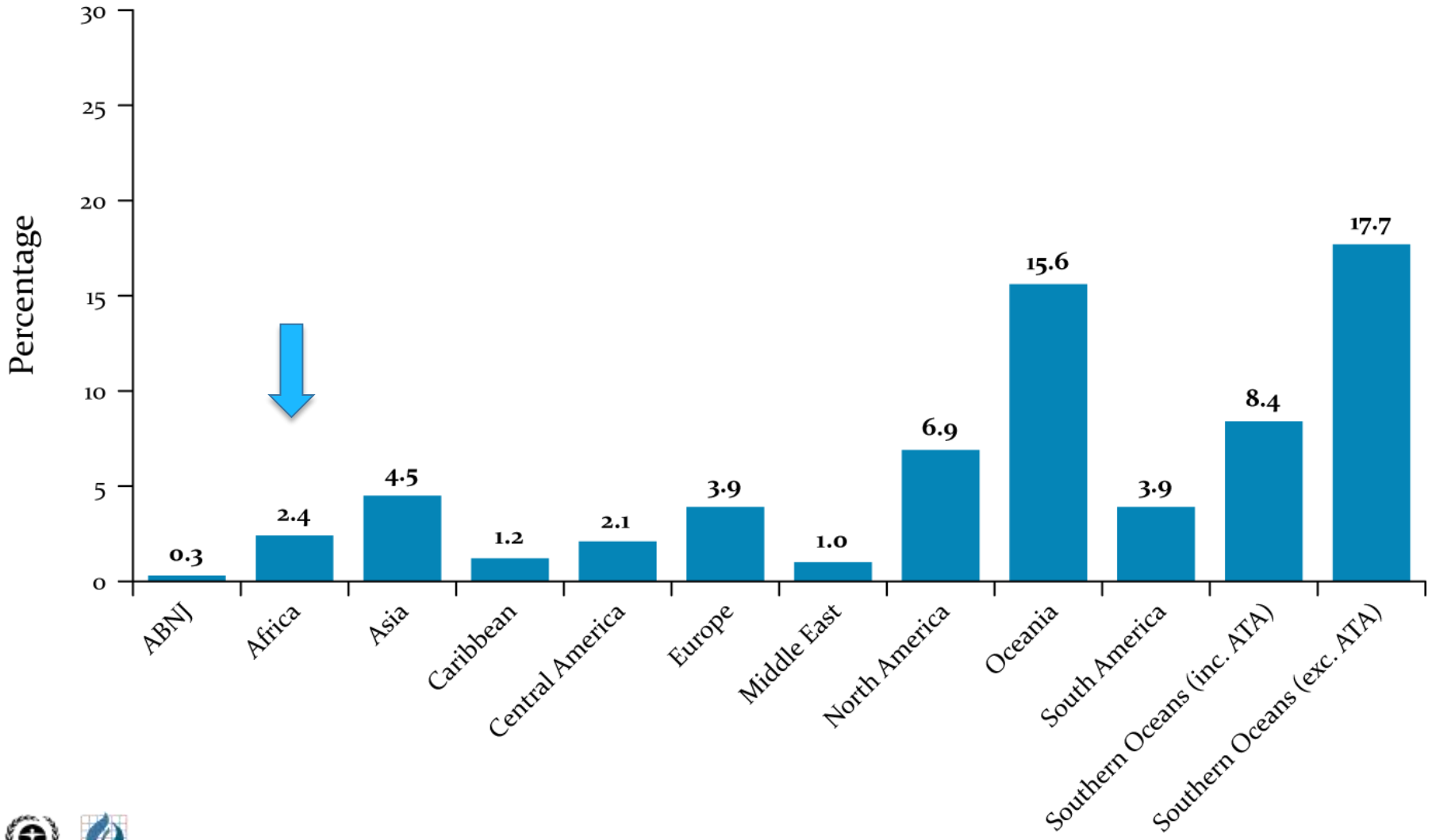
% Marine areas covered



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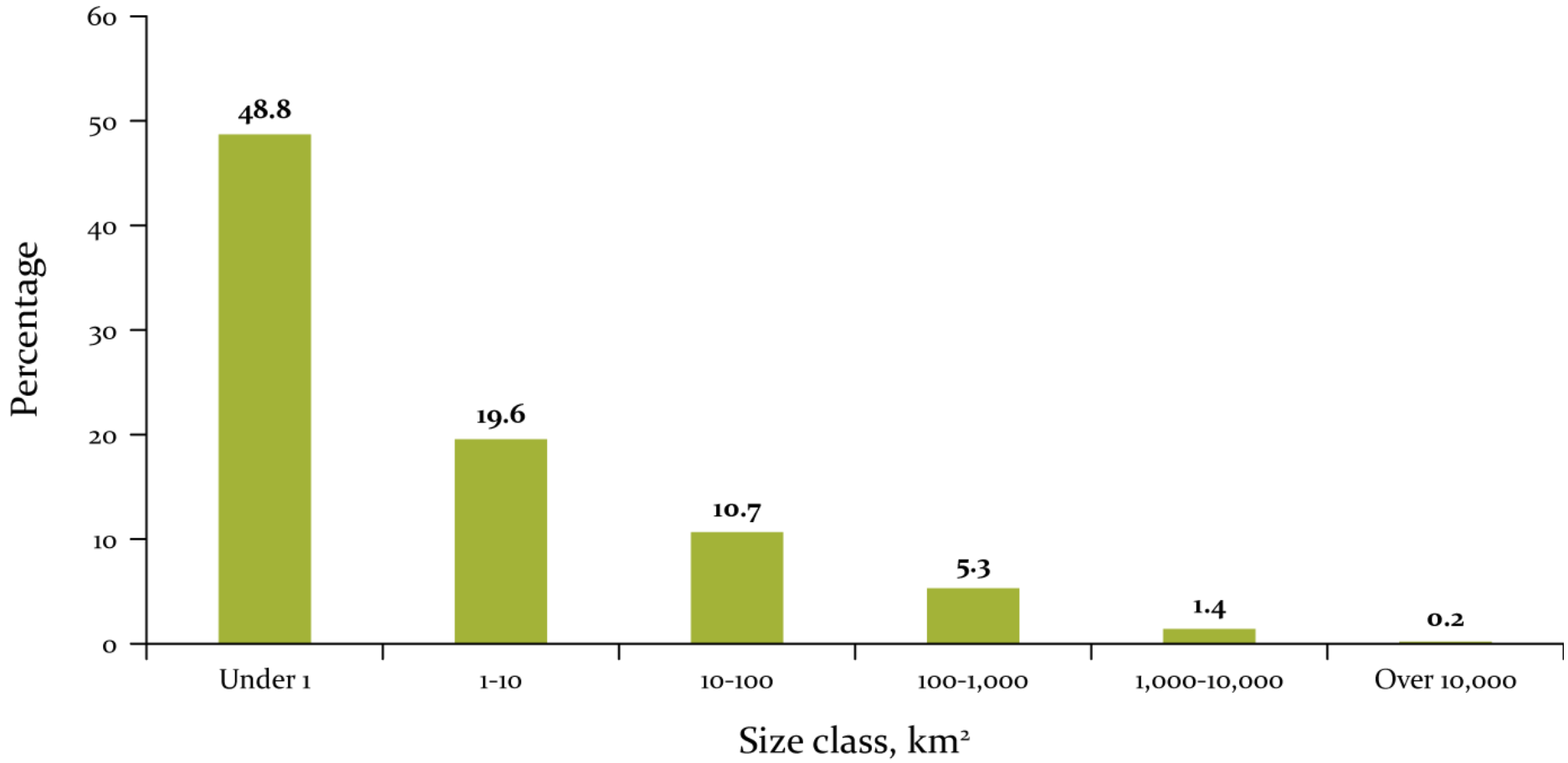
Size of sites: Global



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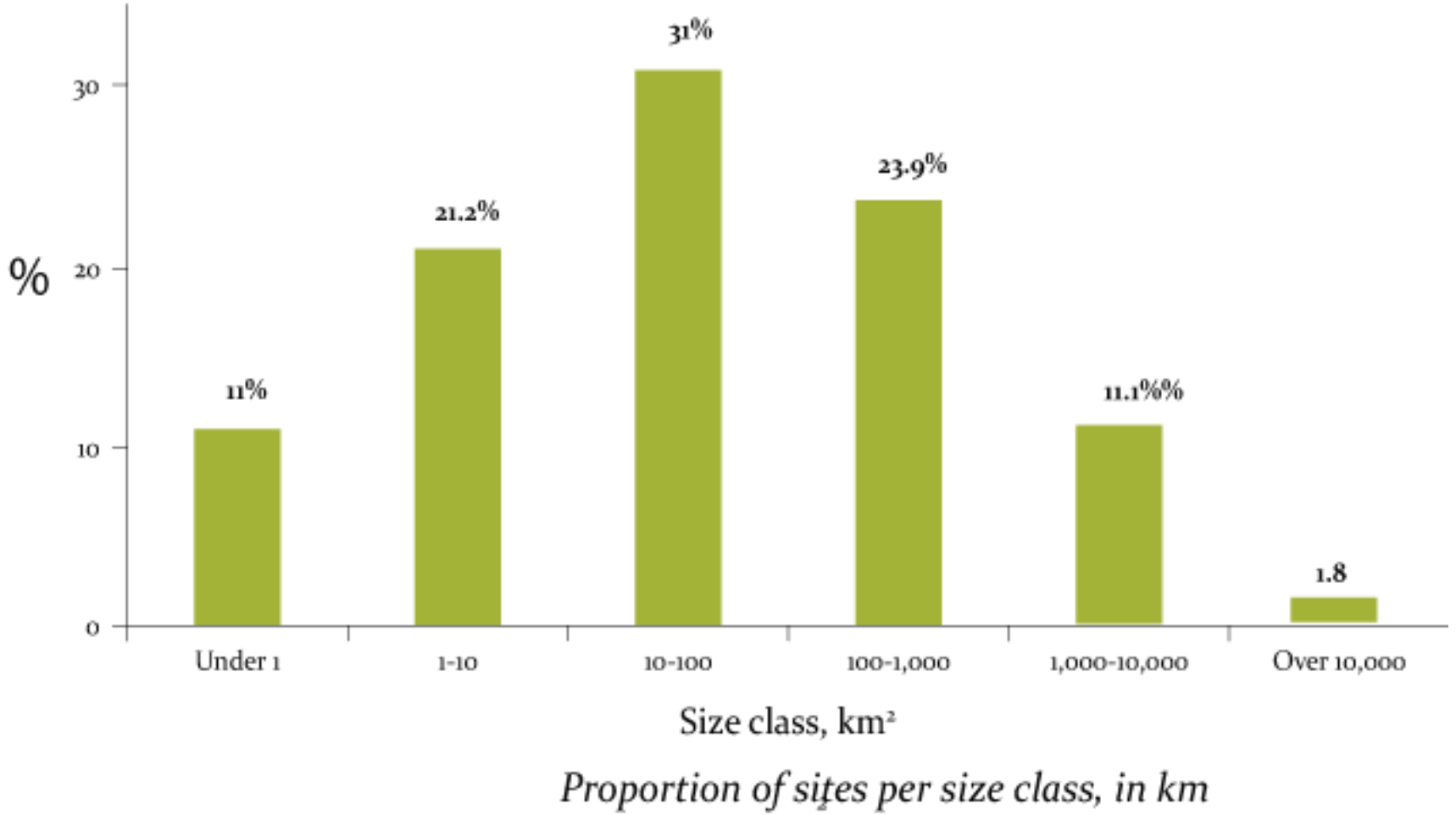
Size of sites: Africa



Proportion of sites per size class, in km

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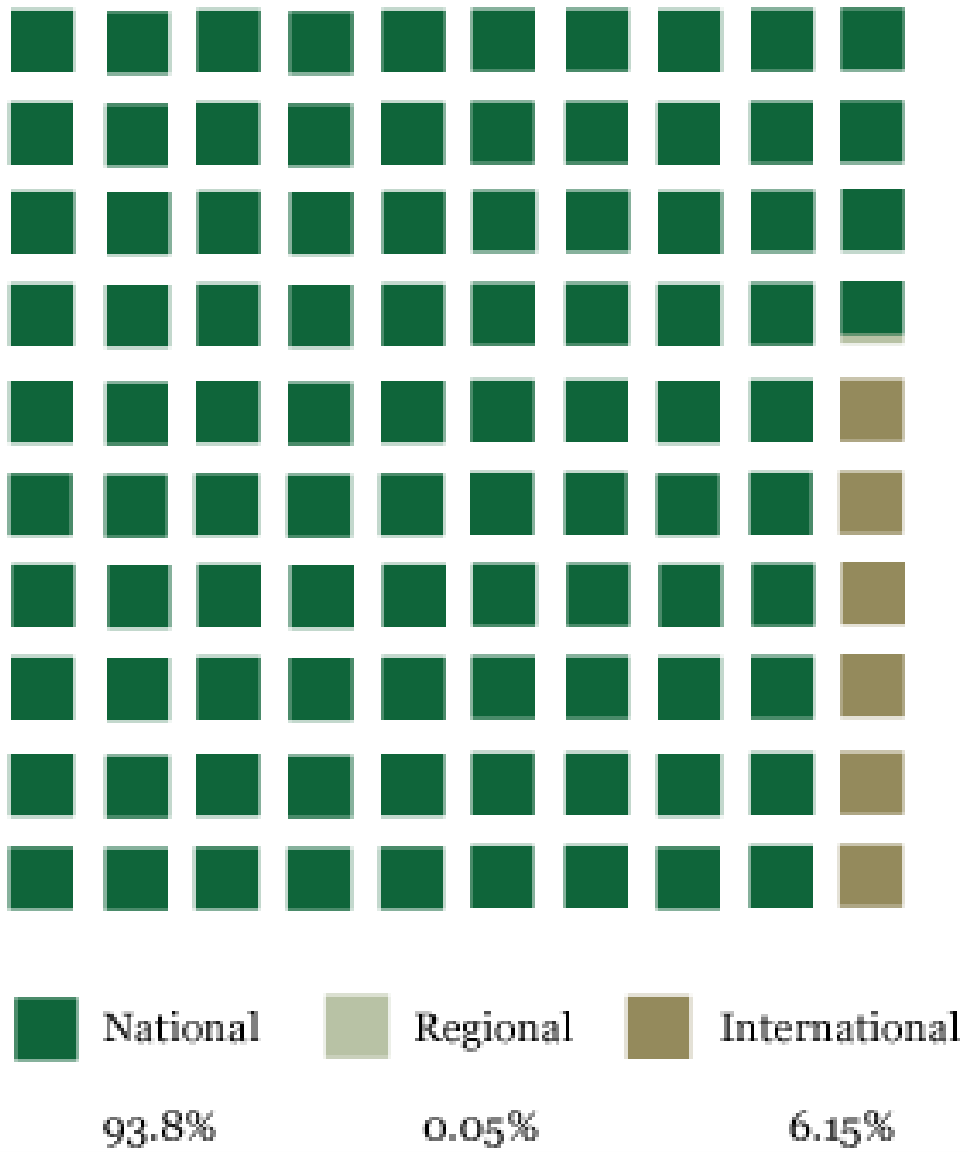
Protected areas vary dramatically in size and number across countries.

Africa

Number of protected area (WDPA March 2016- Africa)

Over 7,700 sites



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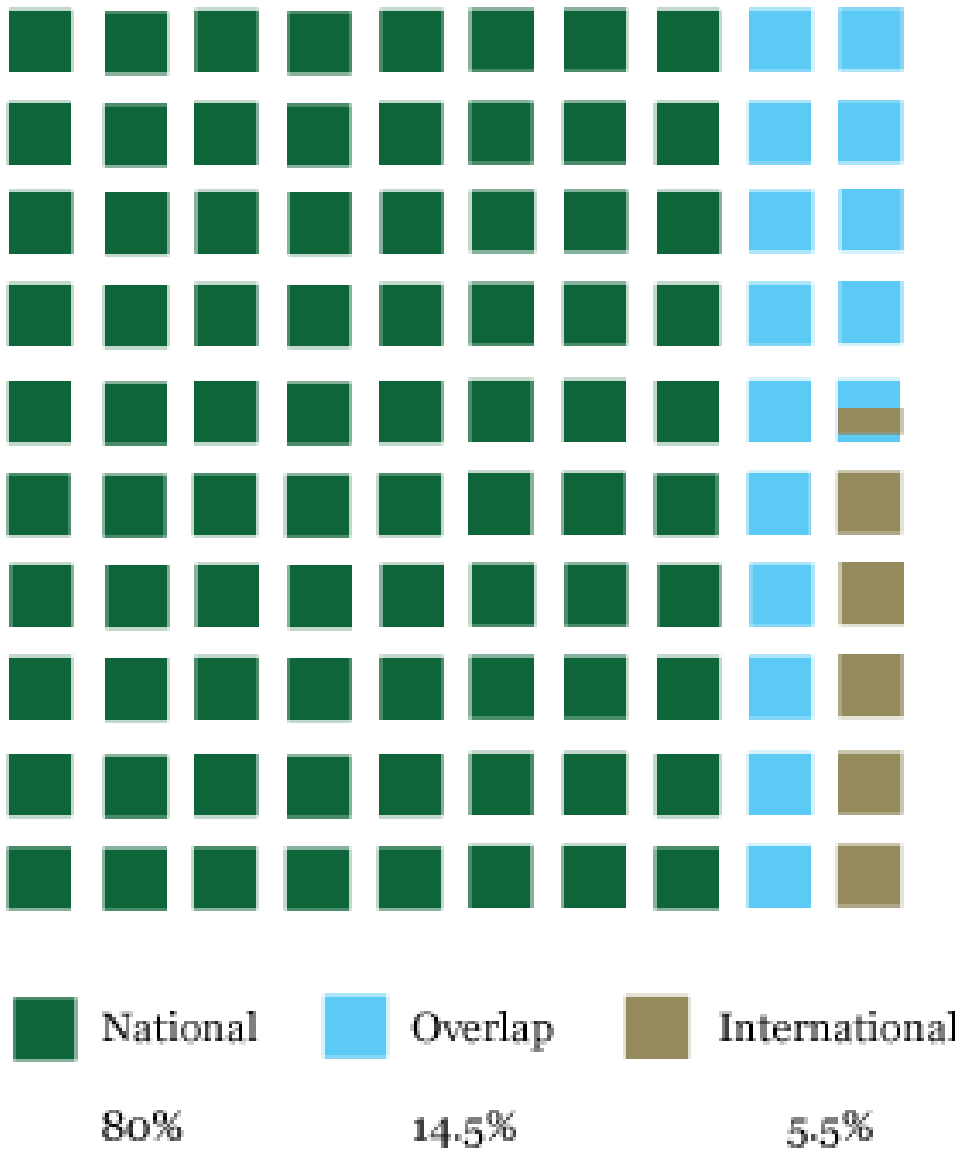
Area of protected area (WDPA March 2016- Africa)

Over 7,700 sites



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How do sites get into the WDPA?

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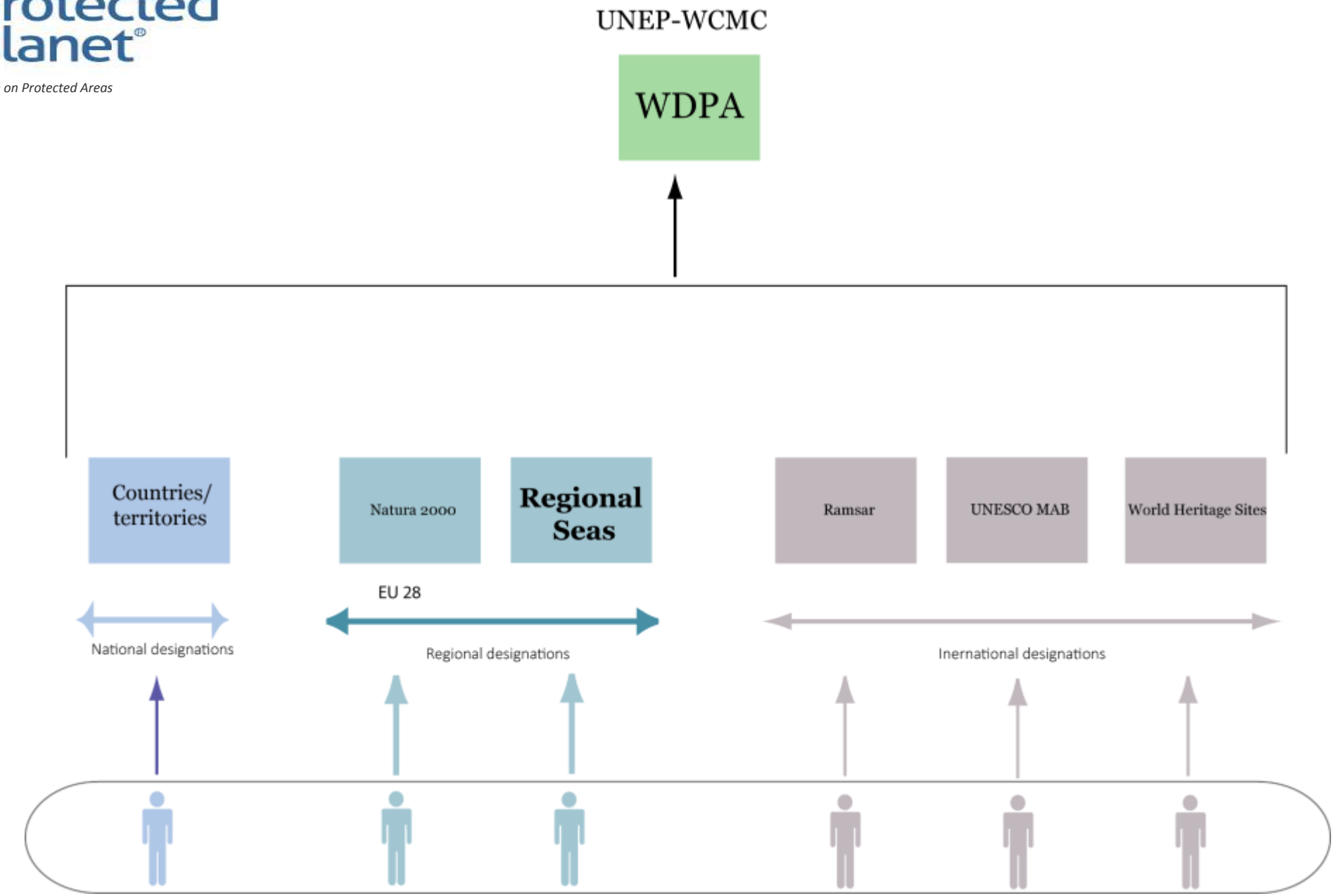

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Data Contributor Agreements

WDPA

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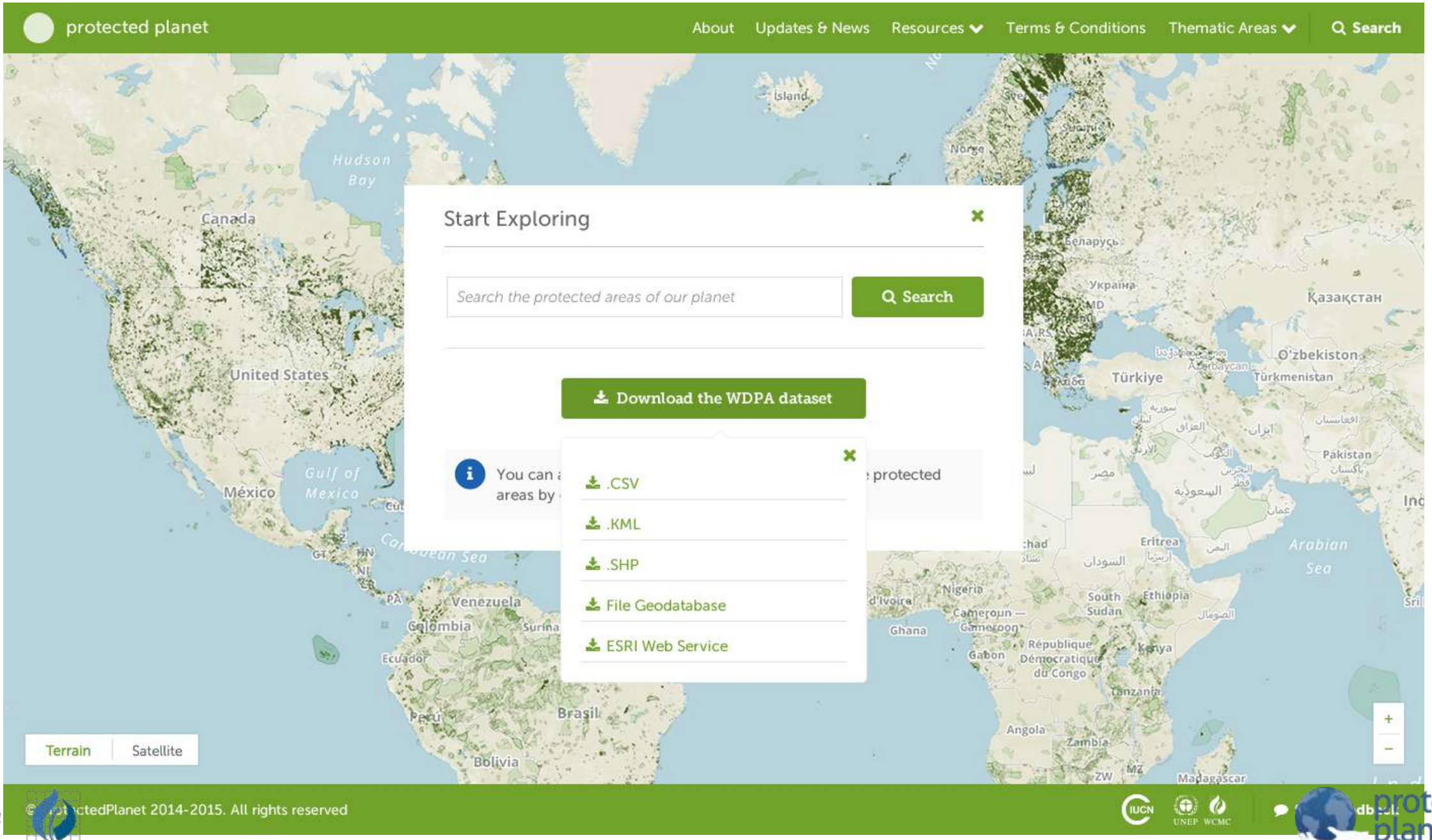

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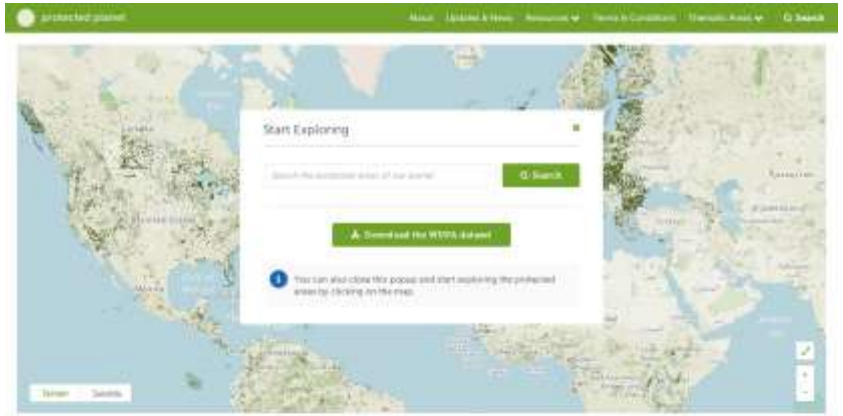
Data

Content

Statistics



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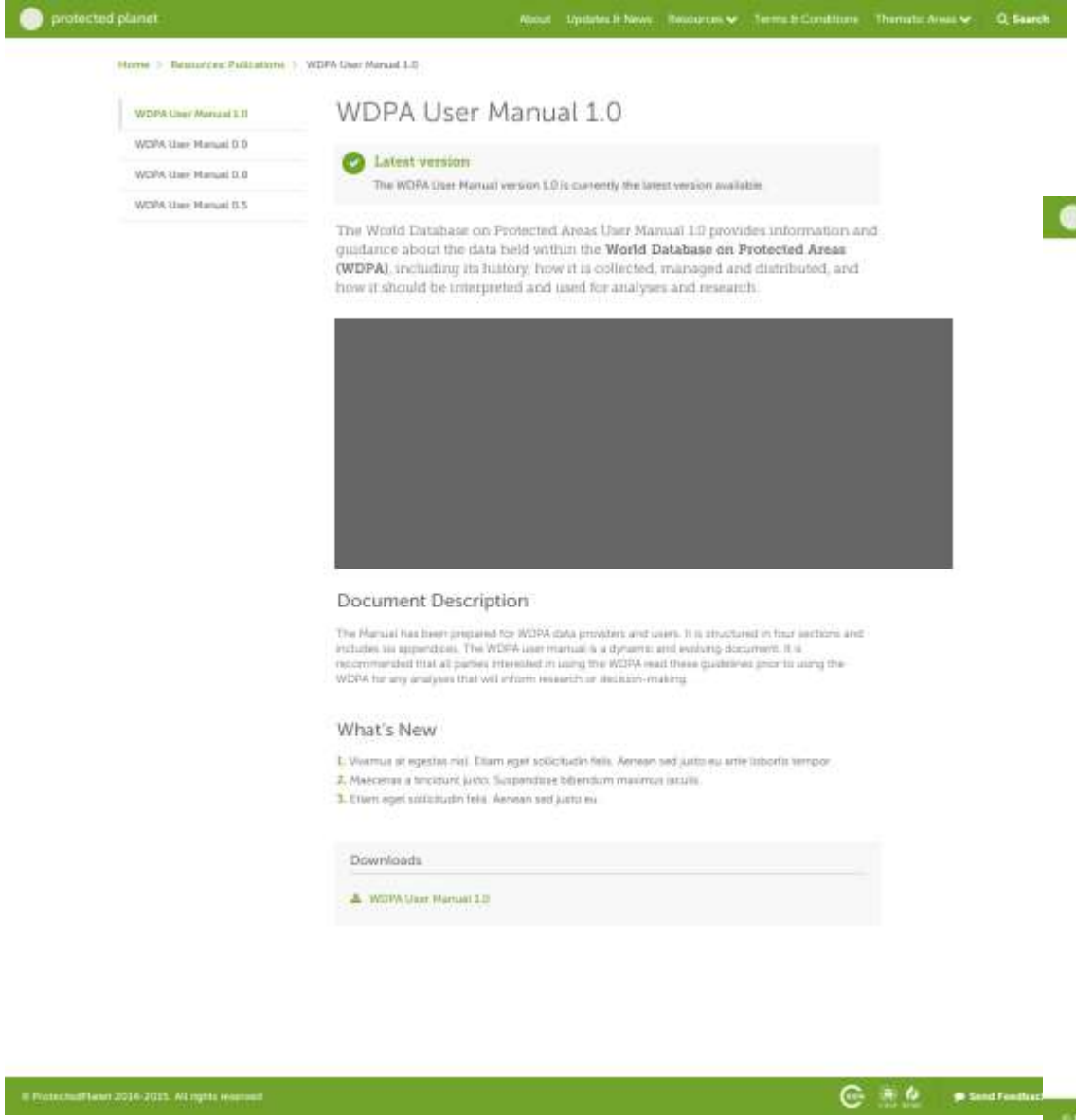

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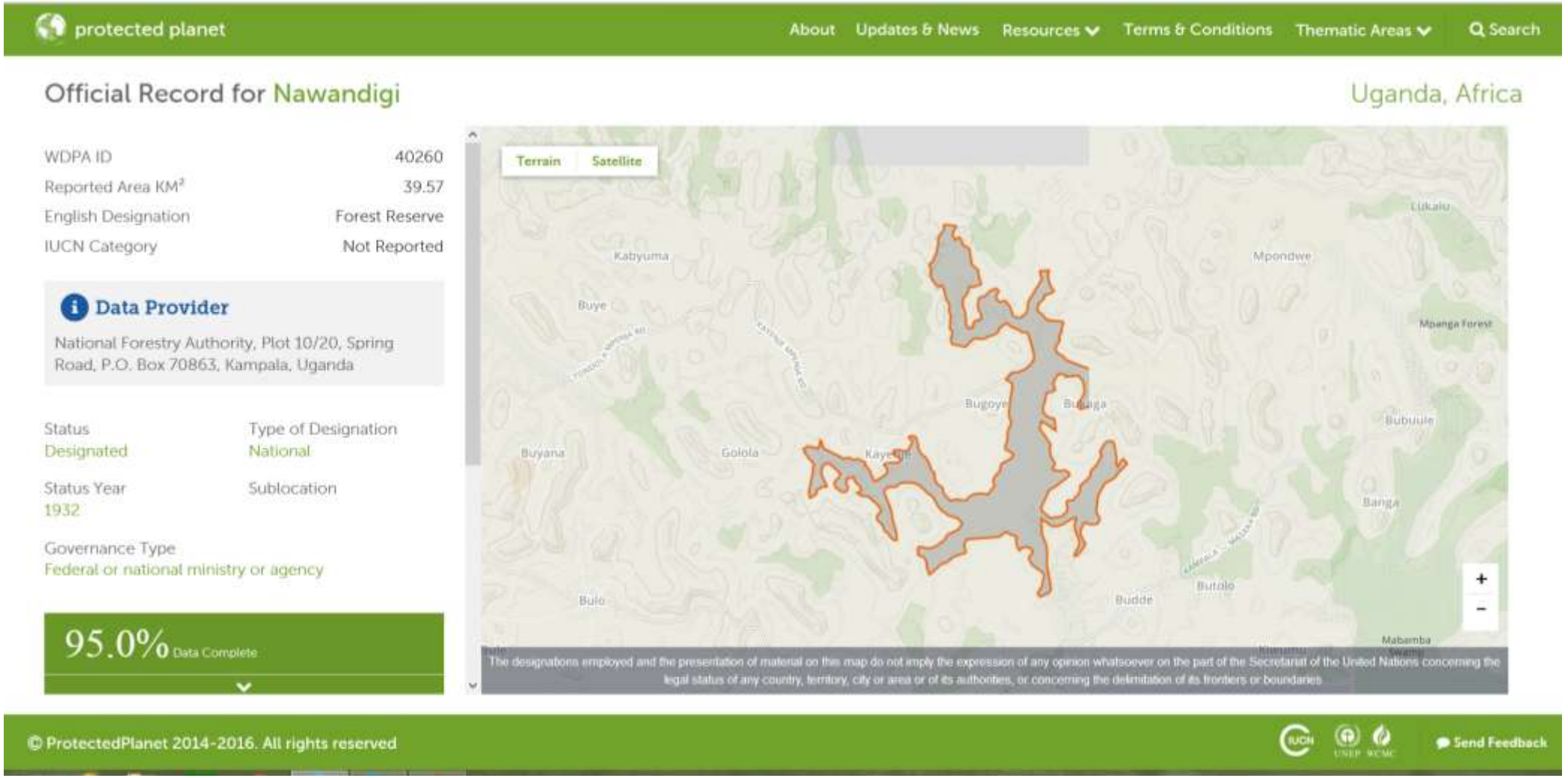

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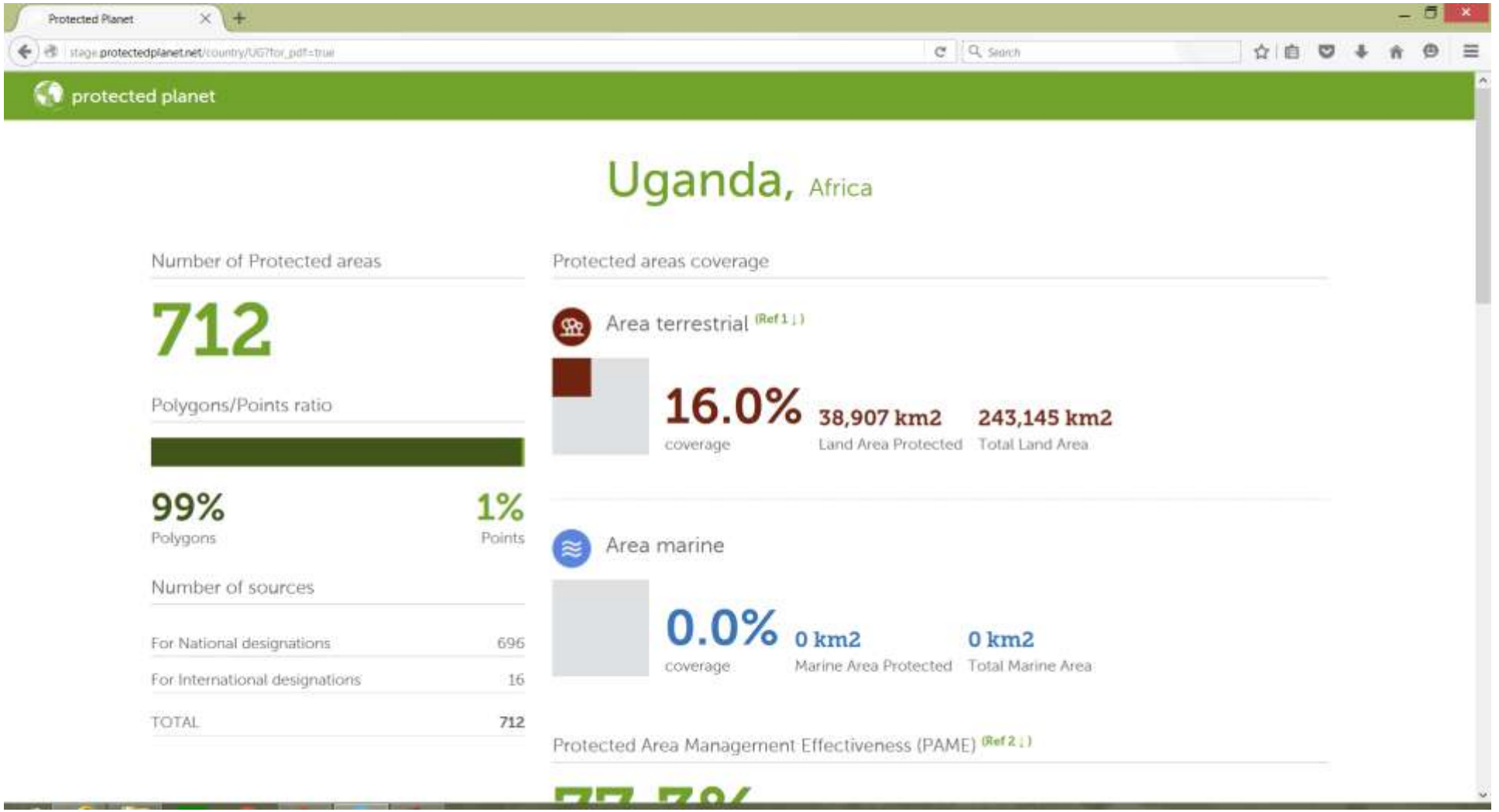

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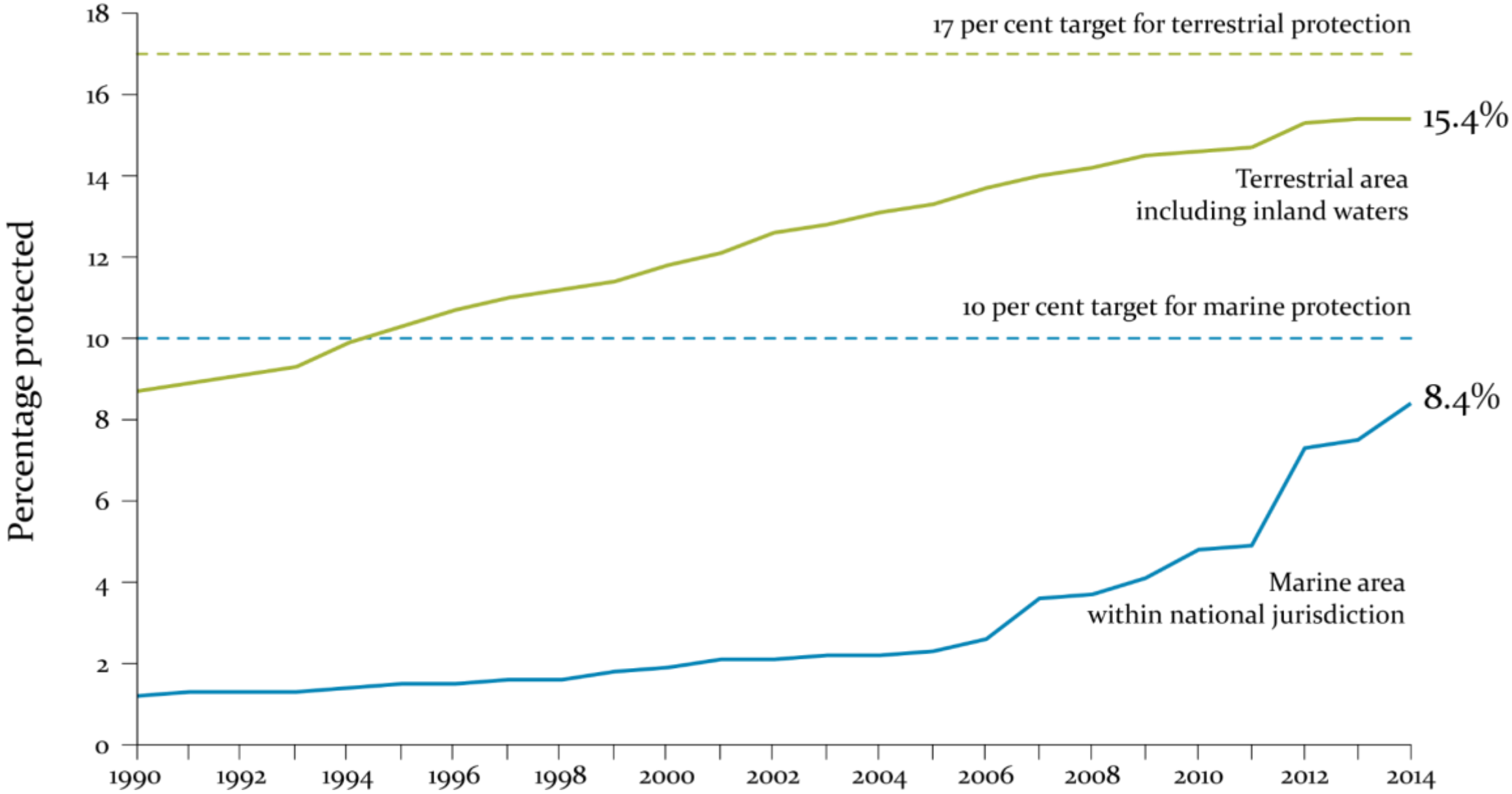
Target 11


Percentage protected
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
1990
1992
1994
1996
1998
2000
2002
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012
2014
17 per cent target for terrestrial protection
15.4%
Terrestrial area
including inland waters
10 per cent target for marine protection
8.4%
Marine area
within national jurisdiction

Not just how much but where, how, why

Not just formally gazetted protected area but Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM)

Need to be well managed

Need to be equitably managed

Need to be ecologically representative

Uses of the WDPA

Publications & indicators

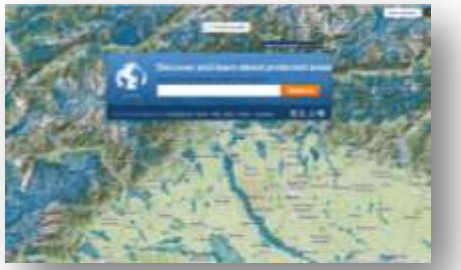
- Millennium Development Goals (Goal 7)
- CBD Aichi Targets
- Global Biodiversity Outlook
- Protected Planet Report (bi-annual)
- Global Reporting Initiative

Online systems

- DOPA
- Protected Planet
- IBAT

Multiple sectors

- Business, bank & industry users
- Scientists & researchers
- Government, NGO & communities



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- ✓ Importance of high quality protected area datasets – e.g. World Heritage Dataset
- ✓ Uses for specific analyses and reports:
  - ➢ The Benefits of Natural World Heritage
  - ➢ Terrestrial Biodiversity and the World Heritage List
  - ➢ Protected Areas and Effective Biodiversity Conservation
- ✓ Contributing to the global reporting requirements and publications:
  - ➢ UN List of Protected Areas
  - ➢ UN Sustainable Development Goals
  - ➢ Aichi Biodiversity Targets
  - ➢ Protected Planet Reports

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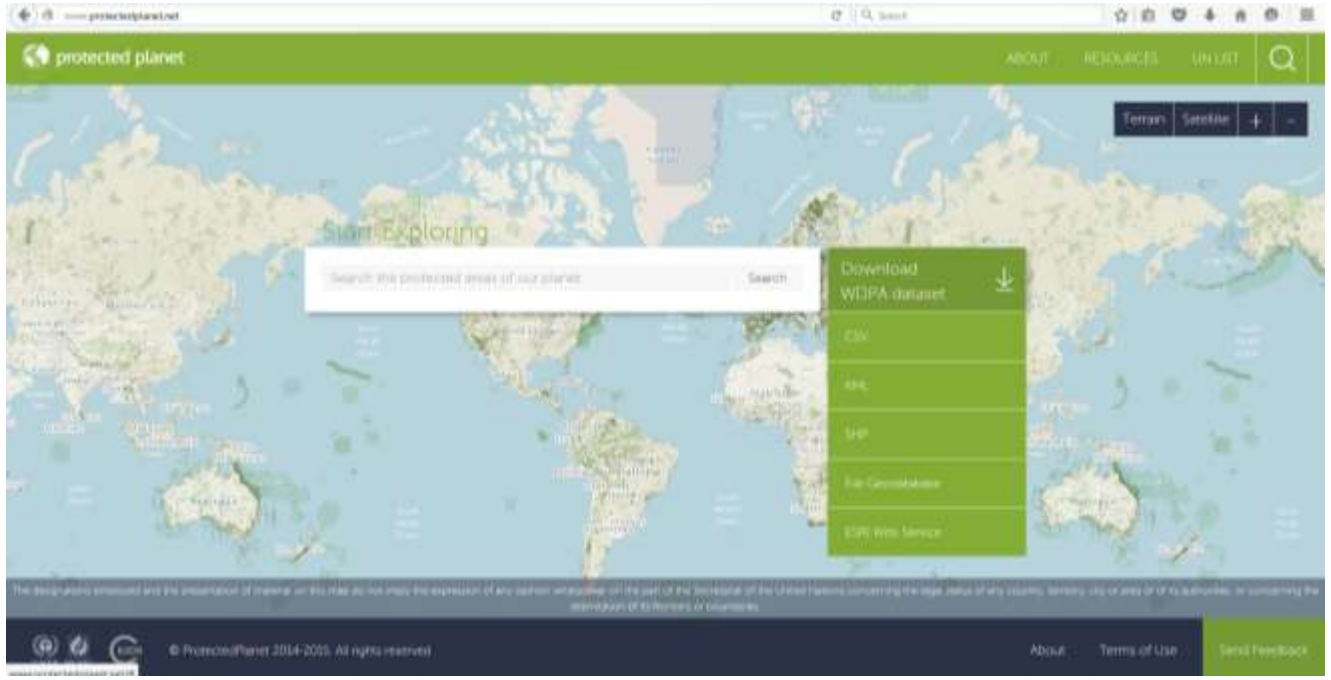
www.protectedplanet.net



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