

# Protected Areas 2005

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

EarthTrends  
Data Tables:  
Biodiversity and  
Protected Areas



	Number and Extent of Protected Areas by IUCN Category, 2004 (b)						Protected Areas as a % of Total Land Area (c) 2004	Number of Protected Areas		Number of Marine or Littoral Protected Areas 2004	Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of International Importance) (d)	
	Nature Reserves, Wilderness Areas, & National Parks (Ia, Ib, & II)		Natural Monuments, Species Management Areas, & Protected Land/Seascapes (III, IV, & V)		Areas Managed for Sustainable Use & Areas not Classified by IUCN (VI & Other)			Larger Than 100,000 hectares	Larger Than One Million hectares		Number 2004	Area (000 ha) 2004
	Number	Area (000 ha)	Number	Area (000 ha)	Number	Area (000 ha)		2004	2004			
<b>WORLD (a)</b>	<b>9,568</b>	<b>396,205</b>	<b>52,569</b>	<b>410,517</b>	<b>38,914</b>	<b>699,714</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>2,178</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>3,459</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>120,242</b>
<b>ASIA (EXCL. MIDDLE EAST)</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>44,239</b>	<b>3,270</b>	<b>147,211</b>	<b>2,871</b>	<b>51,175</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>17,895</b>
Armenia	5	217	23	82	..	..	10.1	1	..	..	2	492
Azerbaijan	12	74	20	319	2	4	4.6	..	..	3	3	232
Bangladesh	..	..	7	66	4	0	0.5	..	..	5	2	611
Bhutan	5	801	5	380	8	23	29.6	5	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	5	550	20	3,200	3	404	20.5	13	..	2	3	55
China	..	..	1,964	105,527	21	4,540	11.3	145	20	41	21	2,548
Georgia	24	244	9	46	1	10	4.2	..	..	2	2	34
India	83	3,562	408	11,730	48	336	4.9	23	..	120	19	9,568
Indonesia	122	5,668	104	2,939	739	17,385	4.5	38	5	116	2	243
Japan	53	638	76	2,485	628	2,098	8.4	7	..	164	13	84
Kazakhstan	11	1,672	62	6,070	3	0	2.9	21	1	1	2	609
Korea, Dem People's Rep	9	150	22	166	..	..	2.6	1	..	..	..	..
Korea, Rep	..	..	33	350	4	4	3.6	..	..	7	2	1
Kyrgyzstan	12	293	73	315	8	107	3.1	..	..	..	1	630
Lao People's Dem Rep	..	..	..	..	28	3,736	..	18	..	..	..	..
Malaysia	114	897	12	469	518	8,715	4.1	22	..	67	4	49
Mongolia	28	19,052	22	1,940	1	799	13.5	24	4	..	6	631
Myanmar	1	161	2	13	41	3,352	0.3	11	..	1	..	..
Nepal	9	1,029	3	98	10	1,537	7.6	8	..	..	4	23
Pakistan	5	714	71	2,794	126	3,801	4.0	16	1	5	19	1,344
Philippines	47	573	37	940	77	918	5.1	1	..	38	4	68
Singapore	3	3	1	0	..	..	5.2	..	..	2	..	..
Sri Lanka	48	419	43	218	410	1,129	9.6	..	..	19	2	8
Tajikistan	5	1,749	18	854	..	..	18.3	2	1	..	6	95
Thailand	59	3,486	80	3,030	80	1,515	12.7	22	..	19	10	371
Turkmenistan	8	820	16	1,063	5	95	4.0	5	..	..	1	189
Uzbekistan	10	807	14	1,243	..	..	4.6	2	1	..	1	0
Viet Nam	10	265	81	834	20	262	3.4	1	..	12	1	12
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>36,725</b>	<b>37,989</b>	<b>100,969</b>	<b>19,985</b>	<b>53,470</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>18,168</b>
Albania	14	34	27	22	4	18	2.0	..	..	7	2	34
Austria	10	93	1,075	2,253	1	1	28.0	1	..	..	11	118
Belarus	5	304	898	1,001	1	11	6.3	..	..	..	7	276
Belgium	..	..	58	83	558	22	2.7	..	..	2	6	8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	17	20	10	11	0	0.5	..	..	..	1	7
Bulgaria	54	75	662	518	37	523	5.4	1	..	1	10	20
Croatia	6	57	181	281	231	22	6.0	..	..	18	4	80
Czech Rep	5	86	1,759	110	36	1,245	2.5	2	..	..	10	42
Denmark	22	11	161	922	141	158	21.8	2	..	72	27	737
Estonia	281	185	1,593	165	465	545	7.6	..	..	..	11	218
Finland	55	999	129	45	3,265	1,905	3.1	9	..	14	11	139
France	5	259	1,147	1,365	..	..	3.0	5	..	83	20	620
Germany	8	129	7,266	10,315	239	708	29.3	29	..	40	32	838
Greece	13	79	96	160	23	188	1.8	..	..	14	10	164
Hungary	5	224	183	597	48	9	8.8	..	..	..	21	154
Iceland	3	177	67	299	..	..	4.7	1	..	9	3	59
Ireland	6	61	67	17	1	0	1.1	..	..	12	45	67
Italy	17	442	355	1,718	271	1,082	7.2	5	..	55	46	57
Latvia	28	178	507	639	6	152	12.7	1	..	1	3	43
Lithuania	8	146	68	447	1	1	9.2	..	..	3	5	50
Macedonia, FYR	3	108	22	71	16	20	7.1	..	..	..	1	19
Moldova, Rep	5	19	58	28	..	..	1.4	..	..	..	2	79
Netherlands	12	42	62	134	1,541	775	4.9	1	..	10	43	835
Norway	110	1,529	50	423	1,619	20	6.1	7	..	18	32	113
Poland	19	241	551	3,176	861	3,616	11.0	12	..	6	8	90
Portugal	4	32	28	367	3	71	4.4	1	..	26	12	66
Romania	27	427	122	49	21	105	2.0	..	..	8	2	665
Russian Federation	108	25,203	10,623	65,020	410	38,476	5.4	229	23	47	35	10,324
Serbia and Montenegro	33	145	68	182	76	49	3.2	..	..	2	4	40
Slovakia	590	344	432	12	18	740	7.3	1	..	..	12	38
Slovenia	2	168	80	125	1	0	14.4	..	..	2	2	1
Spain	34	160	256	3,898	272	564	8.0	7	..	38	49	173
Sweden	750	3,928	1,494	435	2,663	112	9.8	11	..	95	51	509
Switzerland	1	17	2,188	1,168	1	0	28.7	..	..	..	8	8
Ukraine	25	800	5,140	1,138	16	2	3.3	1	..	17	22	716
United Kingdom	..	..	417	3,731	7,082	2,318	15.3	11	..	153	157	760
<b>MIDDLE EAST &amp; N. AFRICA</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>15,237</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>18,123</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>81,466</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>4,575</b>
Afghanistan	1	41	6	178	..	..	0.3	..	..	..	..	..
Algeria	11	11,821	3	43	1	0	5.1	2	2	4	26	2,791
Egypt	3	313	14	4,223	9	1,062	4.6	9	1	17	2	106
Iran, Islamic Rep	16	1,620	106	8,757	9	178	6.4	24	2	7	21	1,465
Iraq	..	..	8	1	..	..	0.0	..	..	..	..	..
Israel	..	..	169	379	13	81	18.4	1	..	19	2	0
Jordan	..	..	11	913	24	56	10.2	1	..	1	1	7
Kuwait	..	..	1	0	..	..	0.0	..	..	4	..	..
Lebanon	1	4	..	..	22	4	0.3	..	..	1	4	1
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1	0	4	122	2	1	0.1	1	..	3	2	0
Morocco	2	3	7	322	9	144	0.8	2	..	4	4	14
Oman	..	..	2	22	..	..	0.1	..	..	4	..	..
Saudi Arabia	5	1,018	62	2,905	10	77,991	2.0	14	5	3	..	..
Syrian Arab Rep	..	..	..	..	21	269	..	..	..	..	1	10
Tunisia	4	28	1	0	32	199	0.2	..	..	2	1	13
Turkey	35	381	20	190	323	1,463	0.7	..	..	14	9	159
United Arab Emirates	..	..	2	0	9	17	0.0	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen	..	..	..	..	3	0	..	..	..	..	..	..

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	Number	Area (000 ha)	Number	Area (000 ha)	Number	Area (000 ha)						
<b>SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>78,542</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>63,483</b>	<b>6,281</b>	<b>123,726</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>26,277</b>
Angola	4	2,958	6	2,313	2	7,277	4.2	8	2	4	..	..
Benin	2	778	..	..	57	1,865	6.7	10	..	..	2	139
Botswana	4	4,551	8	5,947	59	6,993	18.1	31	3	..	1	6,864
Burkina Faso	4	814	9	2,321	70	1,073	11.5	8	1	..	3	299
Burundi	..	..	13	146	..	..	5.4	..	..	..	1	1
Cameroon	10	2,209	7	1,247	9	285	7.4	12	..	2	..	..
Central African Rep	5	3,304	8	4,017	56	3,013	11.8	17	4	..	..	..
Chad	2	414	7	11,080	23	483	9.0	11	2	..	2	1,843
Congo	4	3,534	7	1,326	11	1,269	14.1	9	2	..	1	439
Congo, Dem Rep	14	11,264	2	604	67	7,575	5.1	23	7	..	2	866
Côte d'Ivoire	7	1,858	1	95	314	3,500	6.1	12	1	3	1	19
Equatorial Guinea	5	355	5	101	..	..	16.8	1	..	3	1	23
Eritrea	..	..	3	501	..	..	4.1	2	..	..	..	..
Ethiopia	13	3,036	8	2,482	19	13,102	4.9	28	3	..	..	..
Gabon	..	..	1	80	5	802	0.3	3	..	2	3	1,080
Gambia	..	..	1	1	66	34	0.0	..	..	5	1	20
Ghana	7	1,097	3	7	311	2,583	4.6	4	..	..	6	178
Guinea	2	51	..	..	147	1,513	0.2	1	..	..	12	4,779
Guinea-Bissau	..	..	..	..	4	0	..	..	..	..	1	39
Kenya	33	3,432	13	53	289	3,709	6.0	14	1	11	4	91
Lesotho	..	..	1	7	..	..	0.2	..	..	..	..	..
Liberia	1	129	..	..	14	1,394	1.3	5	..	1	1	76
Madagascar	20	1,106	19	298	14	425	2.4	3	..	7	3	776
Malawi	5	696	4	362	121	882	8.9	4	..	..	1	225
Mali	1	350	12	4,182	3	135	3.6	8	2	..	3	162
Mauritania	..	..	4	250	..	..	0.2	1	..	5	3	1,231
Mozambique	3	1,575	2	1,710	30	1,245	4.2	6	2	6	..	..
Namibia	8	3,159	8	55	174	1,385	3.9	5	1	4	4	630
Niger	2	1,500	4	8,194	..	..	8.2	4	2	..	4	715
Nigeria	16	2,509	13	745	980	2,248	3.6	19	..	..	1	58
Rwanda	2	102	4	92	..	..	7.7	..	..	..	..	..
Senegal	2	929	3	1,167	2	61	10.7	3	..	7	4	100
Sierra Leone	4	144	1	1	50	180	2.0	..	..	..	1	295
Somalia	..	..	2	180	12	10	0.3	1	..	1	..	..
South Africa	44	3,889	279	2,571	194	938	5.3	4	1	27	17	499
Sudan	7	8,473	3	143	17	3,683	3.5	13	4	1	..	..
Tanzania, United Rep	14	4,100	23	9,687	747	23,641	14.6	69	6	8	3	4,272
Togo	3	357	6	72	83	220	7.5	2	..	..	2	194
Uganda	7	766	30	997	1,421	4,663	7.3	12	1	..	1	15
Zambia	22	6,359	16	7	645	24,859	8.4	58	4	..	2	333
Zimbabwe	11	2,717	37	386	201	2,650	7.9	14	1	..	2	13
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>	<b>2,666</b>	<b>99,952</b>	<b>3,628</b>	<b>31,785</b>	<b>6,303</b>	<b>80,164</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>15,780</b>
Canada	1,814	45,636	1,595	6,433	1,694	10,806	5.3	89	11	219	36	13,052
United States	803	54,312	2,016	25,352	4,577	69,345	8.4	258	20	399	19	1,190
<b>C. AMERICA &amp; CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>4,628</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>1,413</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>16,856</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>4,388</b>
Belize	22	359	16	274	22	422	28.6	1	..	22	1	17
Costa Rica	22	454	45	23	91	729	9.3	1	..	21	11	505
Cuba	10	47	18	49	5	52	0.9	..	..	36	6	1,440
Dominican Rep	14	900	14	212	19	75	22.9	3	..	14	1	20
El Salvador	..	..	..	..	61	40	..	..	..	3	1	2
Guatemala	11	405	33	189	38	1,944	5.4	4	..	3	4	503
Haiti	2	5	6	2	1	0	0.3	..	..	..	..	..
Honduras	15	397	39	132	19	1,816	4.7	5	1	18	5	180
Jamaica	..	..	2	0	159	176	0.0	..	..	4	1	6
Mexico	81	1,189	6	16	63	8,696	0.6	20	1	37	7	1,104
Nicaragua	4	320	61	457	23	2,033	6.0	6	..	5	8	406
Panama	9	471	8	12	23	824	6.5	5	..	14	3	111
Trinidad and Tobago	3	13	12	11	59	0	4.8	..	..	9	1	6
<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>66,424</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>39,594</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>269,316</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>25,142</b>
Argentina	91	3,893	41	2,019	168	11,536	2.1	29	7	29	12	3,075
Bolivia	14	10,865	5	1,216	13	9,020	11.1	25	9	..	8	6,472
Brazil	311	20,973	344	11,893	537	120,390	3.9	206	38	82	8	6,434
Chile	17	1,397	42	1,253	3	39	3.5	11	..	27	7	100
Colombia	33	7,490	54	2,296	356	72,742	8.6	50	12	13	2	439
Ecuador	12	2,304	2	4	122	4,416	9.3	22	..	4	11	157
Guyana	2	126	1	360	..	..	2.3	1	..	..	..	..
Paraguay	12	1,353	8	38	29	264	3.5	3	..	..	4	775
Peru	8	3,664	7	345	47	17,599	3.1	29	8	3	10	6,778
Suriname	2	1,608	6	237	..	..	12.7	2	1	7	1	12
Uruguay	..	..	8	30	17	36	0.2	..	..	4	1	435
Venezuela	33	12,462	94	18,895	89	33,081	34.2	83	11	19	5	264
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>2,693</b>	<b>50,457</b>	<b>5,675</b>	<b>7,939</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>23,542</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>8,017</b>
Australia	2,537	48,473	2,338	3,422	442	22,636	6.7	103	17	339	64	7,383
Fiji	9	16	..	..	18	9	9.9	..	..	15	..	..
New Zealand	131	1,933	3,297	4,468	382	70	24.0	13	..	76	5	39
Papua New Guinea	3	7	..	..	41	725	0.0	1	..	14	2	595
Solomon Islands	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	1	..	..
<b>DEVELOPED</b>	<b>7,798</b>	<b>197,483</b>	<b>47,994</b>	<b>156,072</b>	<b>27,934</b>	<b>159,661</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>2,010</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>42,695</b>
<b>DEVELOPING</b>	<b>1,775</b>	<b>199,026</b>	<b>5,467</b>	<b>255,442</b>	<b>10,978</b>	<b>540,064</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>77,824</b>

a. World totals were calculated by WRI. b. Marine and littoral protected areas are excluded from these totals. c. Protected areas in IUCN categories I-VI and areas not classified as 'Other' are included; marine and littoral protected areas are excluded. d. "Ramsar" sites, or Wetlands of International Importance are defined under the Convention on Wetlands and may not be mutually exclusive of "Number of Marine or Littoral Protected Areas".

### VARIABLE DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY

**Number and Extent of Protected Areas by IUCN category.** These data refer to the percent of total land area that is designated as protected under various International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN or World Conservation Union) Categories in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). These data include terrestrial areas only; marine areas are not included.

An IUCN Management Protected Area is defined by IUCN as, “an area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means.” The WDPA consortium has been working to produce an improved and updated database available in the public domain. Summary information presented in WDPA, of which the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is the custodian, includes legal designation, name, IUCN Management Category, size in hectares, location (latitude and longitude), and the year of establishment for over 100,000 sites. For inclusion in this data set, protected areas must be specifically designated by a national government and also be larger than 1,000 hectares.

IUCN categorizes protected areas by management objective and has identified six distinct categories of protected areas:

*Category Ia.* Strict nature reserve: A protected area managed mainly for scientific research and monitoring; an area of land and/or sea possessing some outstanding or representative ecosystems, geological or physiological features and/or species.

*Category Ib.* Wilderness area: A protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection; a large area of unmodified or slightly modified land and/or sea retaining its natural character and influence, without permanent or significant habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition.

*Category II.* National park: A protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation; a natural area of land and/or sea, designated to: (a) protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations; (b) exclude exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation of the area; and (c) provide a foundation for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities, all of which must be environmentally and culturally compatible.

*Category III.* Natural monument: A protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features; an area containing one or more specific natural or natural/cultural features that is of outstanding or unique value because of its inherent rarity, representative or aesthetic qualities, or cultural significance.

*Category IV.* Habitat/species management area: A protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention; an area of land and/or sea subject to active intervention for management purposes so as to ensure the maintenance of habitats and/or to meet the requirements of specific species.

*Category V.* Protected landscape/seascape: A protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation; an area of land, with coast and sea as appropriate, where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant aesthetic, ecological and/or cultural value, and often with high biological diversity.

*Category VI.* Managed resource protected area: A protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems; an area containing predominately unmodified natural systems, managed to ensure long term protection and maintenance of biological diversity, while also providing a sustainable flow of natural products and services to meet community needs.

*Category Other.* Protected areas that do not fit into one of the IUCN categories.

For IUCN Category tables showing number and area by country, all Marine and Littoral sites were excluded for analysis.

**Protected Areas as a Percent of Total Land Area** is the percentage of a country or region’s total land area that is designated a terrestrial protected area by the World Conservation Union in categories I-VI and Other as defined and categorized by the IUCN. Marine and Littoral areas are excluded

**Number of Protected Areas by Land Area** represents the number of World Conservation Union protected sites in categories I-VI and Other as defined and categorized by the IUCN. Data distinguish protected area sites that exceed 100,000 hectares and protected area sites that exceed 1 million hectares.

**Number of Marine or Littoral Protected Areas.** These data include marine protected areas, littoral protected areas, and protected areas with both marine and littoral components. All are assigned an IUCN category (I-VI). IUCN defines a Marine Protected Area as: "any area of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlaying water and associated flora and fauna, historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or all of the enclosed environment." These marine protected areas (MPAs) include areas that are fully marine and areas that have only a small percentage of intertidal land. Many MPAs have large terrestrial areas. The extent of the marine portion of most protected areas is rarely documented. The degree of protection varies from one country to another, and may bear little relationship to the legal status of any site. "Littoral" is defined as any site which is known to incorporate at least some intertidal area. All marine or littoral protected areas fall into one of IUCN six management categories. See above for category definitions.

**Ramsar Sites**, or Wetlands of International Importance, are defined under the Wetlands Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. In order to qualify as a Ramsar site, an area must have, "international significance in terms of ecology, botany, zoology, limnology or hydrology." The Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are presently 133 Contracting Parties to the Convention, with 1,421 wetland sites totaling 123.9 million hectares, designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Based on country reports, data were collected by UNEP-WCMC. The WDPA Consortium, comprised of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) worldwide has been working with UNEP-WCMC to improve the quality of the database. WRI calculated Protected Areas in each country and category by joining the WDPA geographic information system (GIS) point file containing all nationally-designated protected areas, with a corresponding table showing area in hectares (provided by UNEP-WCMC). The original file was modified to exclude the following sites, as recommended by UNEP-WCMC:

1. All sites with DESIGNATE field marked "Cloud Forest Sites" and "Cloud Forest Regions" were excluded.
2. All sites with STATUS field marked "Degazetted", "Proposed", "In preparation", "Recommended", "Unknown", and "Unset" were excluded.
3. All sites with negative numbers in SITE\_CODE field were excluded.

## **FREQUENCY OF UPDATE BY DATA PROVIDERS**

### **Protected Areas Data (Including Marine Protected Areas)**

The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) Consortium is continually working to improve the quality and comprehensiveness of the WPDA. This dataset is updated yearly and based on the latest version available as of November 2004.

## **DATA RELIABILITY AND CAUTIONARY NOTES**

### **Protected Areas**

Due to variations in methodologies of data collection, the consistency and accuracy of information regarding protected areas can be highly variable among countries. This is particularly true of data on extent of coverage; values may be underreported by many countries. In addition, although many countries update their information with great regularity, others do not. Furthermore, international organizations may not have complete information regarding all aspects of protected areas for each individual country.

**Marine or Littoral Protected Area Data**

These marine protected areas (MPAs) include areas that are fully marine and areas that have only a small percentage of intertidal land. Many MPAs have large terrestrial areas. The extent of the marine portion of most protected areas is rarely documented. The degree of protection varies from one country to another, and may bear little relationship to the legal status of any site.

**SOURCES**

United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). 2004. *World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)*. CD-ROM. Available on-line at: <http://sea.enep-wcmc.org/wdbpa/download/wdpa2004/index.html>. Cambridge, U.K.