



UNEP



WCMC





**United Nations Environment Programme  
World Conservation Monitoring Centre**



The background of the slide is a composite image. The top half shows a lush mangrove forest with dense green foliage and prominent, arching prop roots extending over a body of water. The bottom half shows an underwater view of a vibrant coral reef with various types of coral in shades of green and blue.

# ENGAGING AND BENEFITING LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN PROTECTED AREAS

**BRIAN MACSHARRY, UNEP-WCMC  
6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

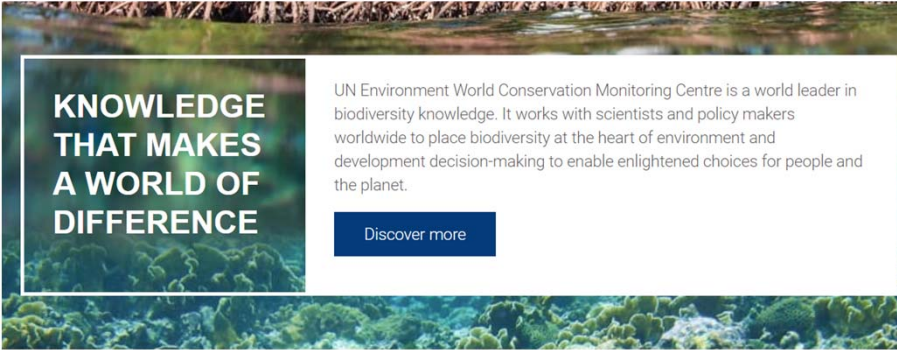
# UN Environment **World** Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

Connect with us    

Partners Vacancies The Team Contact

Our expertise News Featured work Resources & Data About us



## KNOWLEDGE THAT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre is a world leader in biodiversity knowledge. It works with scientists and policy makers worldwide to place biodiversity at the heart of environment and development decision-making to enable enlightened choices for people and the planet.

[Discover more](#)





16 JULY 2018  
Indigenous lands are globally important for conservation, new study... >



05 JULY 2018  
Blog: Papua New Guinea promotes social and environmental benefits fr... >

03 JULY 2018  
Identifying knowledge needed for developing the post-2020 global bi... >

## FEATURED PROJECTS




Connect with us    

Partners Vacancies The Team Contact

Our expertise News Featured work Resources & Data About us



## WE BELIEVE IN A WORLD WHERE BIODIVERSITY COUNTS

OUR DEDICATED TEAM COMBINES SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE, OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL ABILITY AND A PASSION FOR NATURE

[Our partners](#)

[Working at UNEP-WCMC](#)

[Vacancies](#)

[The Team](#)

[Annual Reports](#)

## About us

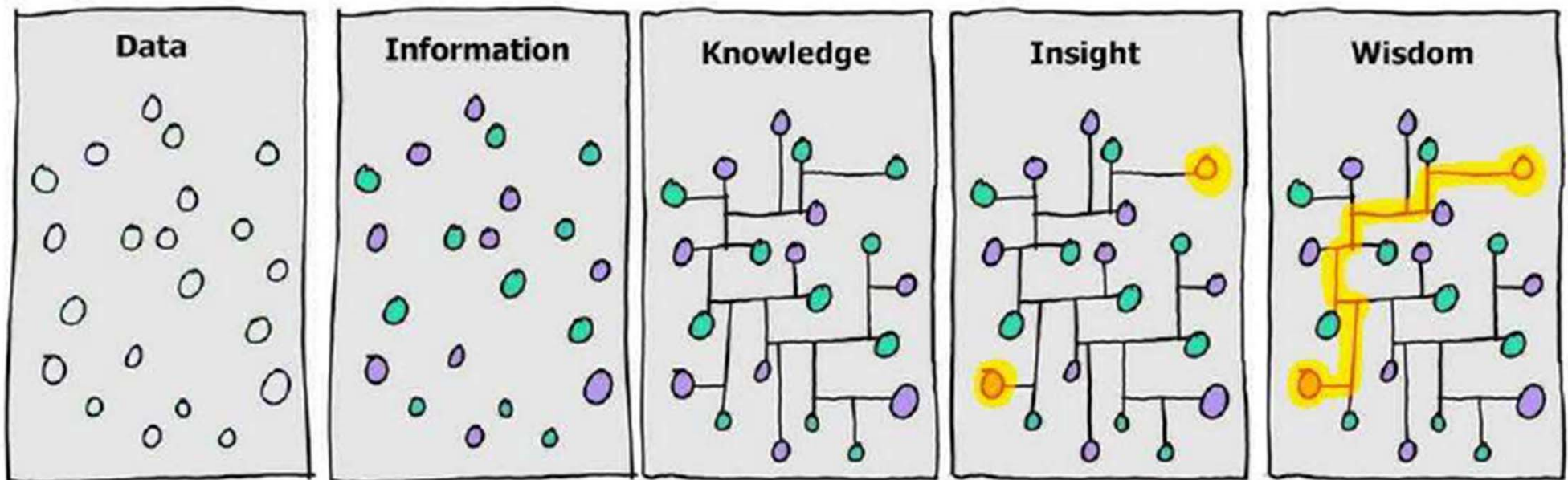
The UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) works with scientists and policy makers worldwide to place biodiversity at the heart of environment and development decision-making to enable enlightened choices for people and the planet. Our 100-strong international team are recognised leaders in their field and have unrivalled

## Our vision

A **world** where decision makers in all sectors and at all levels recognize and take full account of the values of **biodiversity** as the bedrock of a global green economy and human well-being

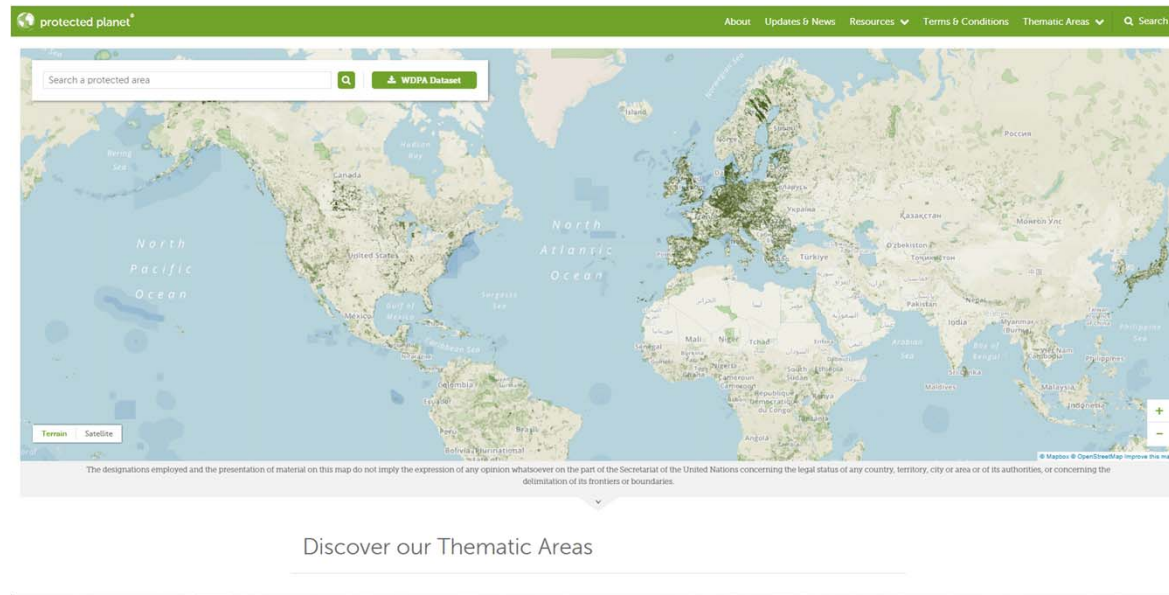
## Our mission

To **provide** authoritative **information** about biodiversity and ecosystem services in a way that is useful to decision makers who are driving change in environment and development policy.



Cleveland, 1982

# Protected Areas in a Global Context



[www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net)

Progress towards global targets is a key driver for biodiversity, what is reported at the global level can influence what happens on the ground.

Key targets are the CBD's **Aichi Target 11** and the UN SDGs (**14 & 15**)

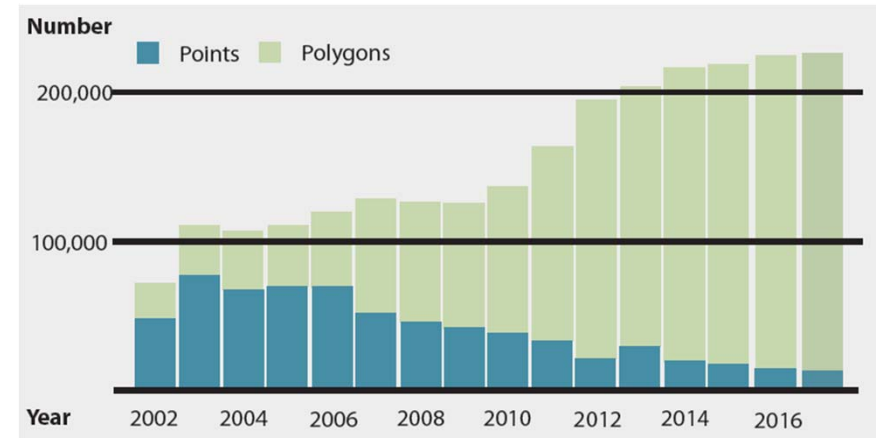


# The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

1959: resolution 713 (XXVII) 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Economic & Social Council

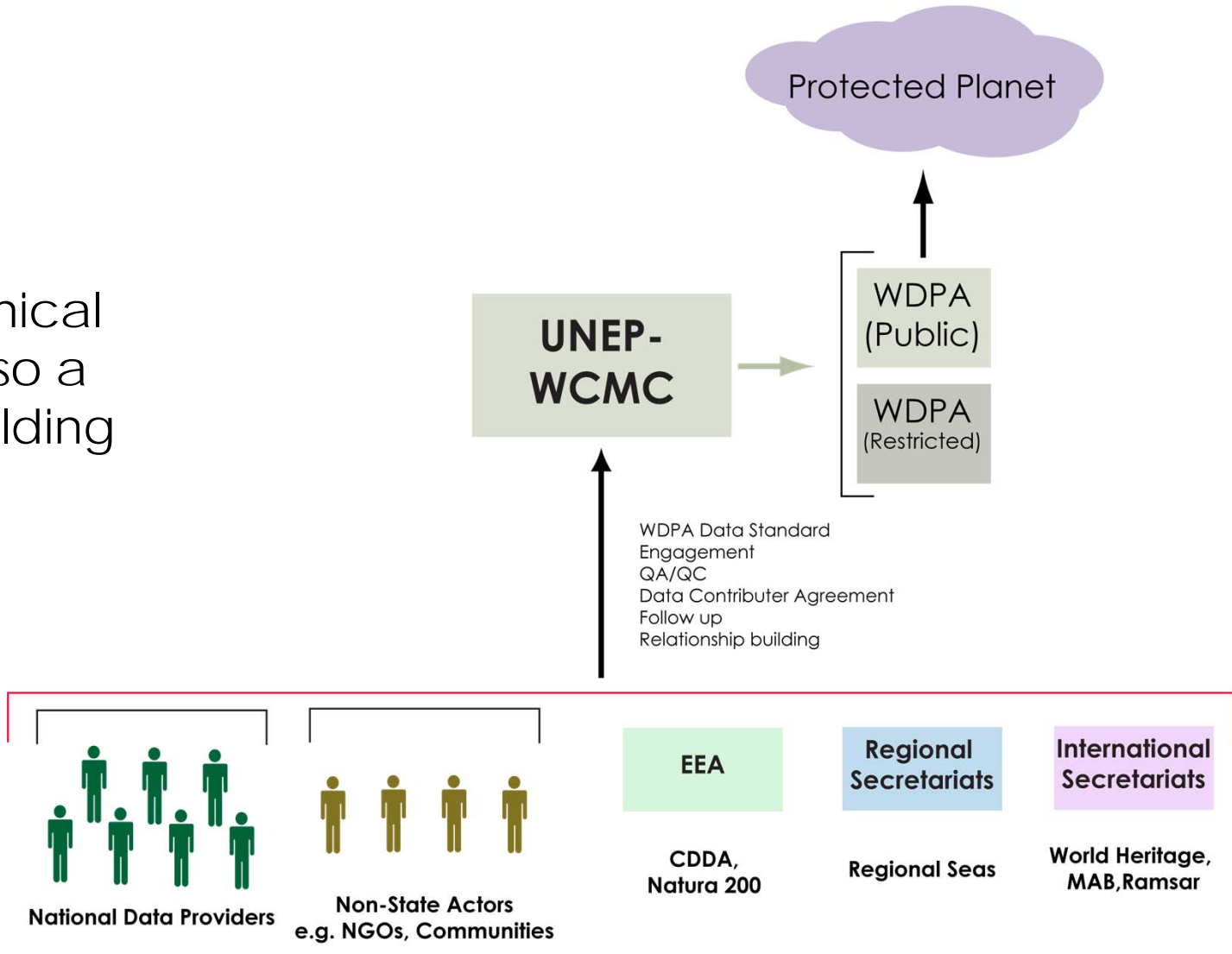


- A long and established history of tracking protected areas.
- A net increase of 40,000 new sites between 2013 – 2018
- Particular emphasis to improve the quality of the database as well as the size.





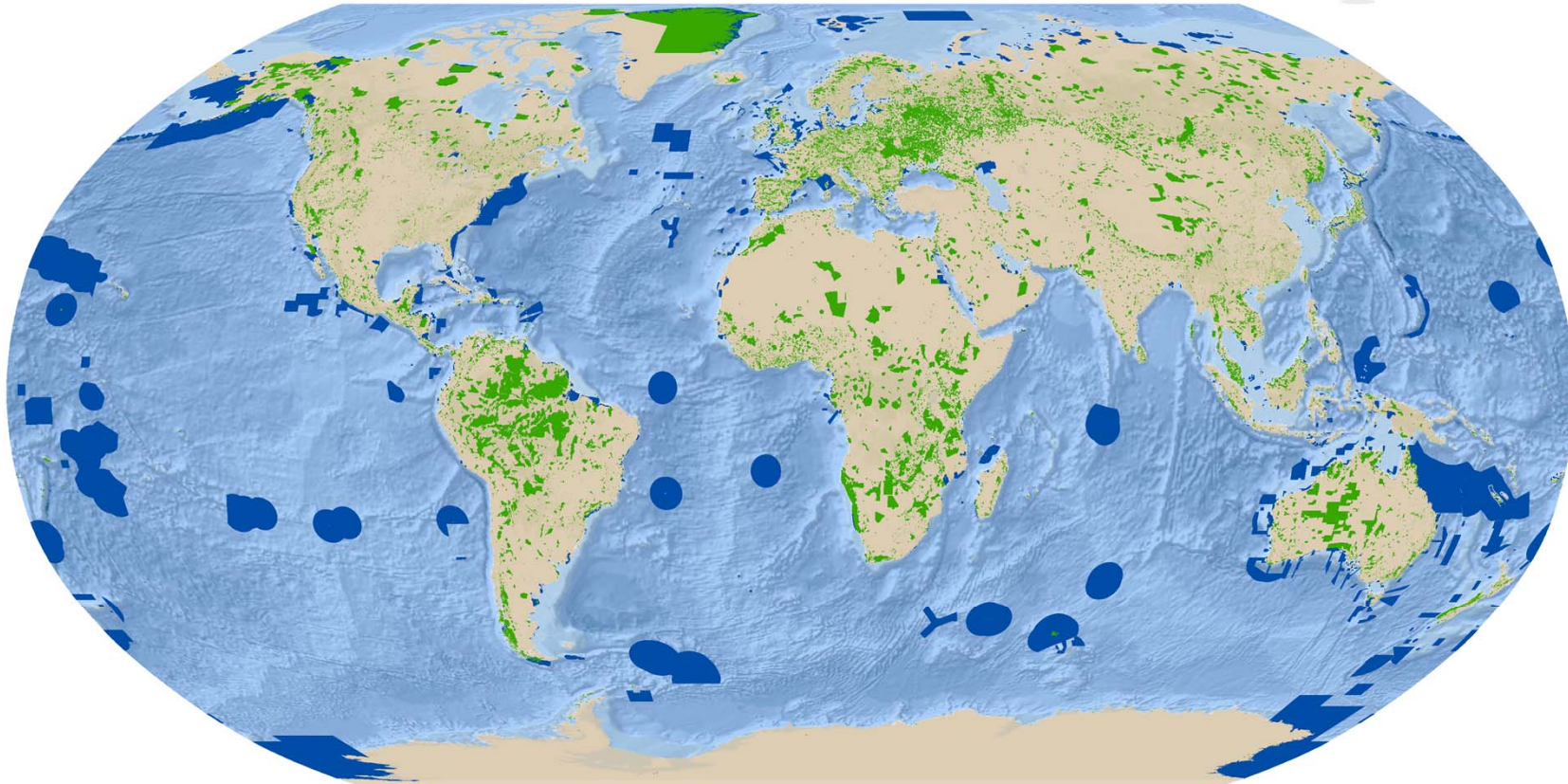
Not just a technical exercise, it is also a relationship building exercise.



So where are we today?



# Protected Areas of the world




Source: UNEP-WCMC AND IUCN (2018). Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) [On-line], August 2018, Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC. Available at [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net)




 Terrestrial protected areas  Marine and coastal protected areas

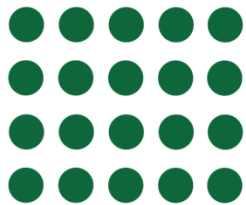


# Latest Protected Area figures

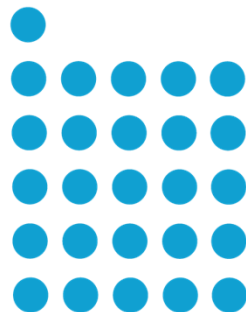
 @Protected Planet

 @protectedplanet

● 1 million km<sup>2</sup>



20 million km<sup>2</sup>, or **14.87%**,  
of land is protected



26.3 million km<sup>2</sup>, or **7.27%**,  
of the ocean is protected

235,522 records in the WDPA

> 220,000 are terrestrial

> 10,000 have both terrestrial and marine portions

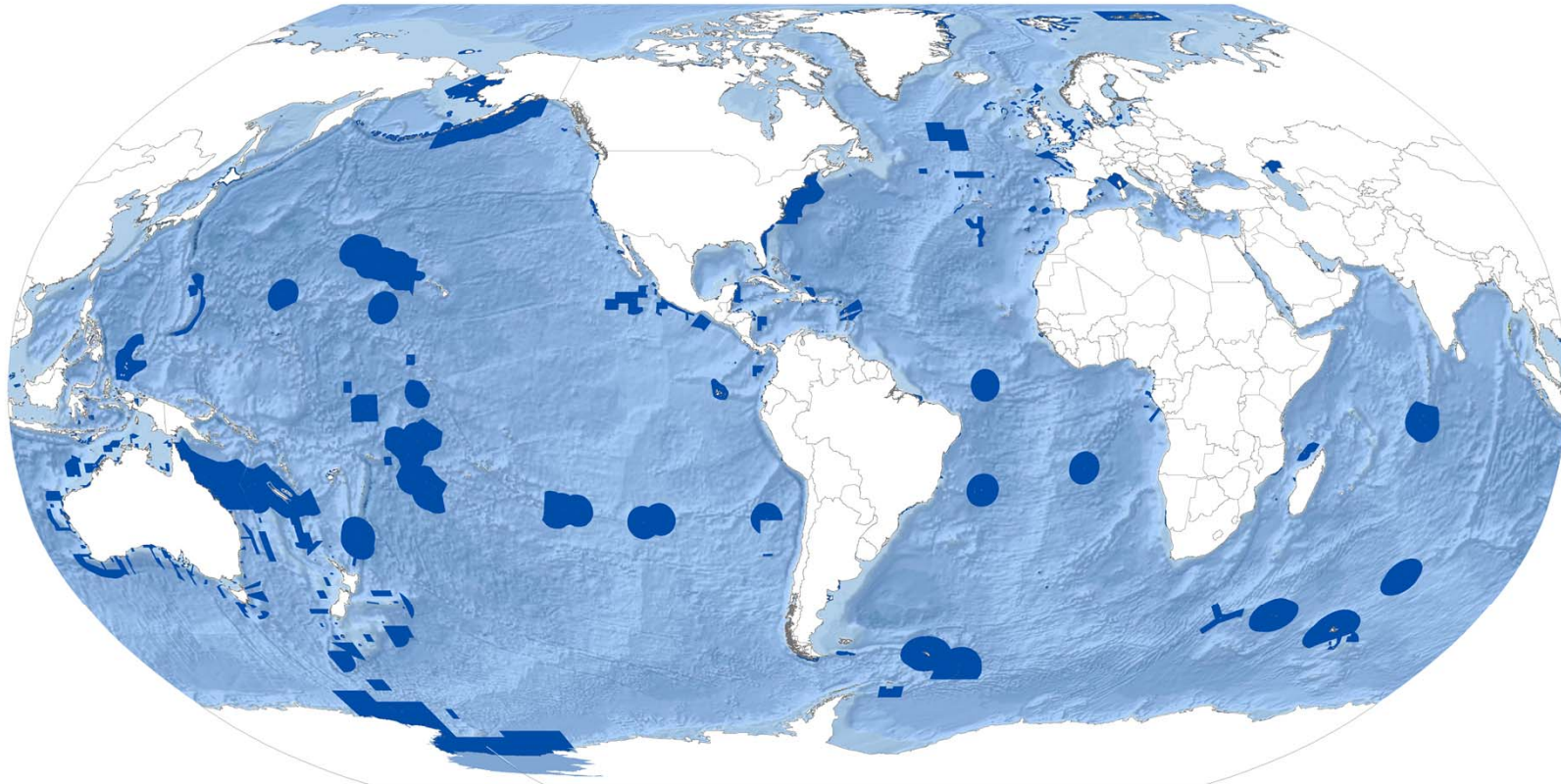
> 5,000 are exclusively marine

covering 244 countries and territories

Source: UNEP-WCMC, July 2018



# Official MPA Map



Source: UNEP-WCMC AND IUCN (2018). Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) [On-line], August 2018, Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC. Available at [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net)



**7.44% of the Global Ocean covered by protected areas**  
**2.25% exclusively no-take.**



## Types of Protected Areas

There are over 1,500 separate designations used across the plant.

We break these down into three “types”:

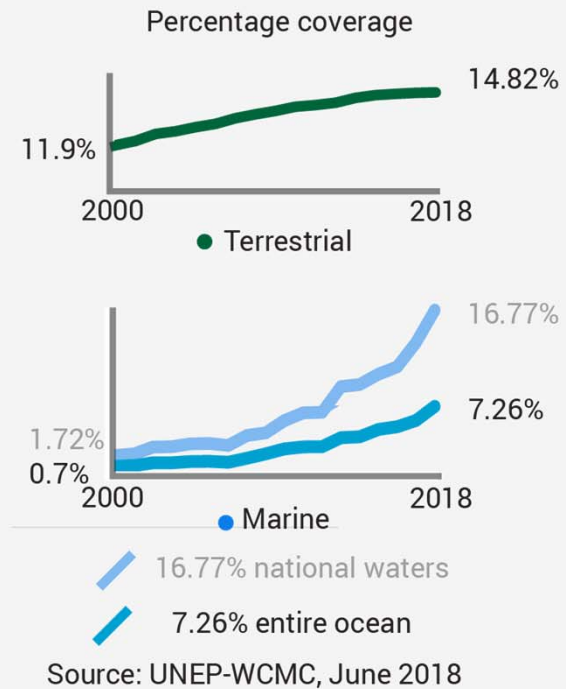
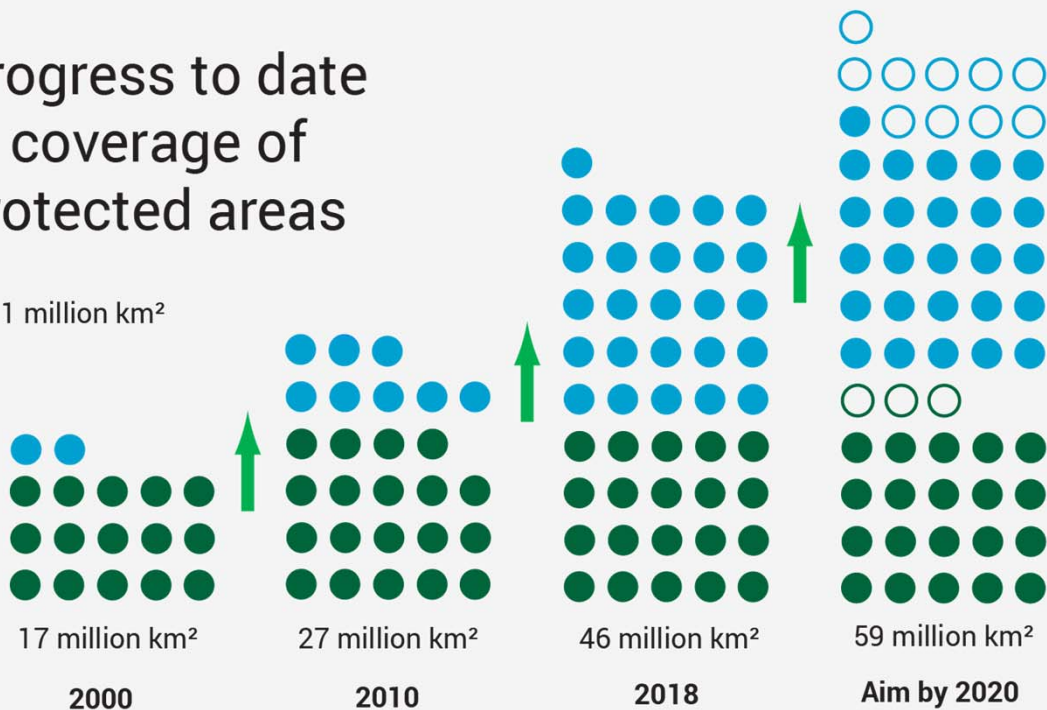
**National:** Sites designated or proposed at the national or sub-national level- **86%** of all sites

**Regional:** Sites designated or proposed by a country under a regional (supra national) framework or agreement-**12.5%** of all sites

**International:** Sites designated or proposed by a country under an international framework or agreement. World Heritage Sites, Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of International Importance) and UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves – **1.5%** of all sites

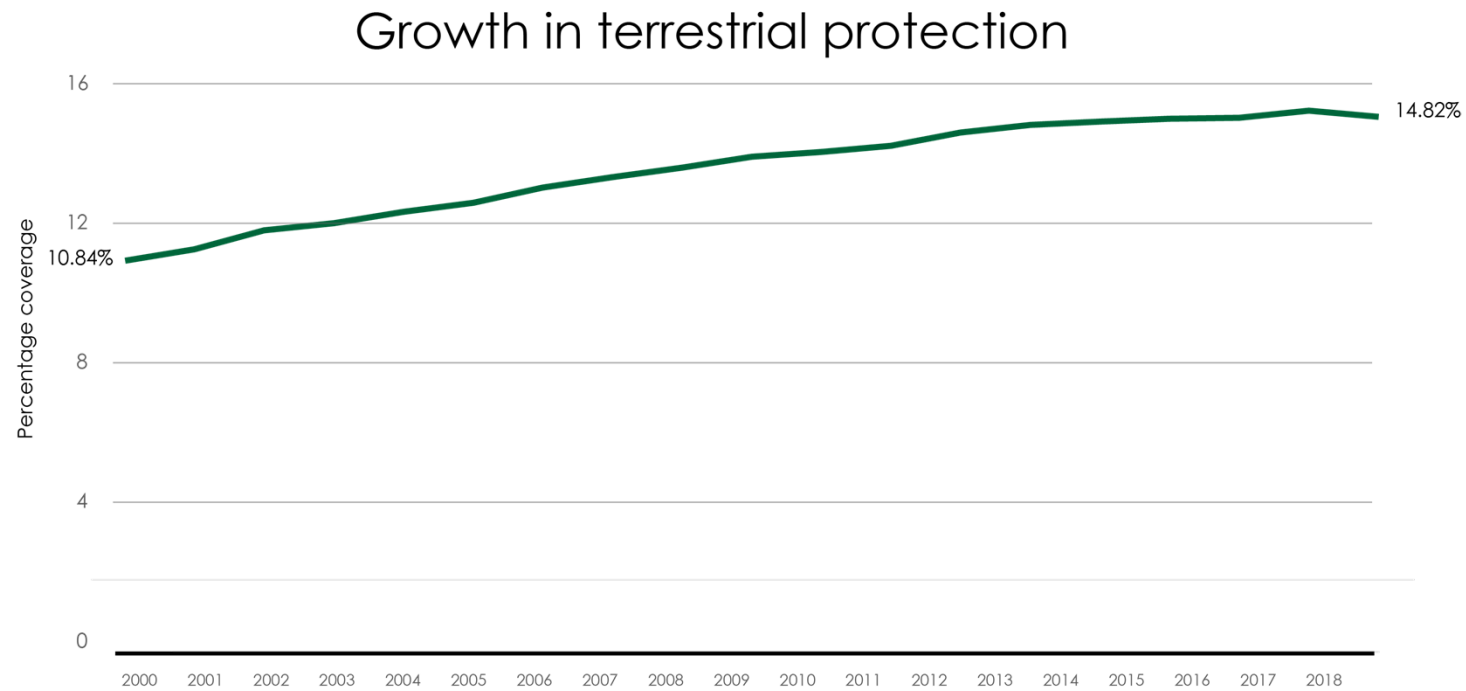
# Progress to date in coverage of protected areas

● 1 million km<sup>2</sup>



# Global Targets

## Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2010-2020)

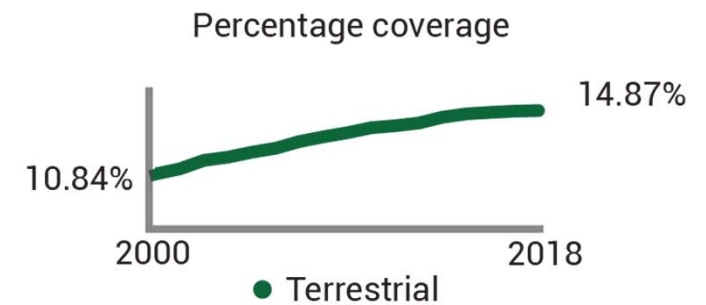
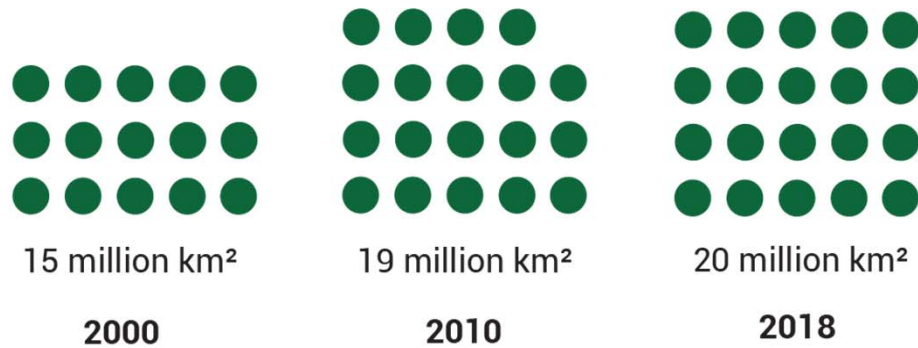


UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2018) Protected Planet [On-line], [May 2018], Cambridge, UK  
Available at [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net)



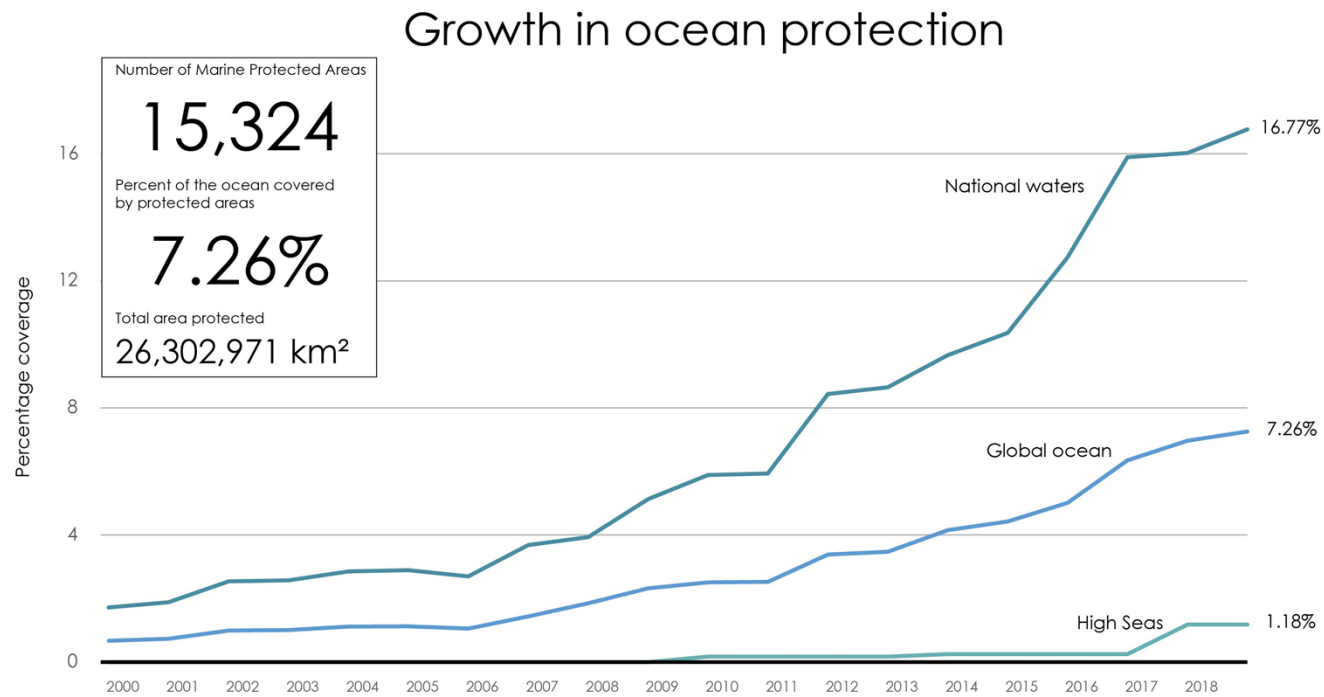
# Progress to date in coverage of protected areas

● 1 million km<sup>2</sup>



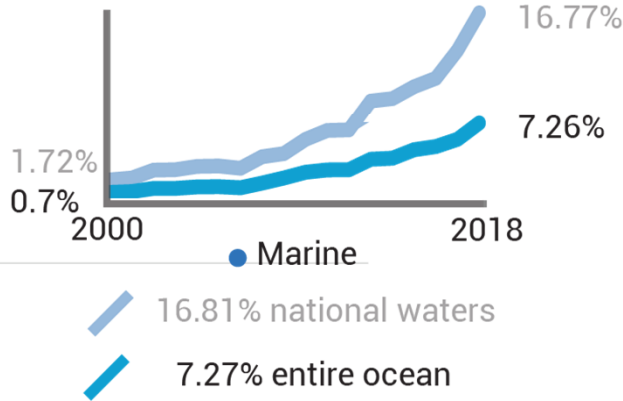
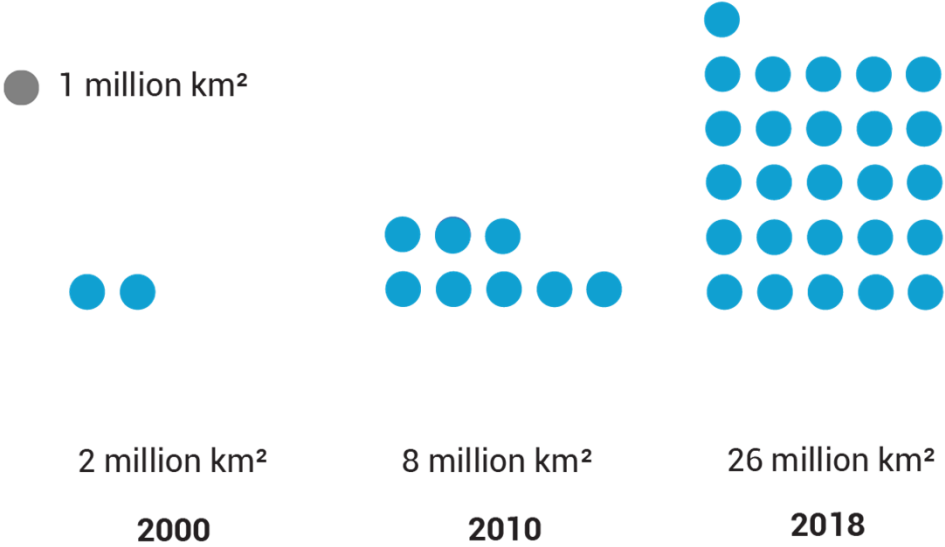
# Global Targets

## Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2010-2020)



UNEP-WCMC & IUCN (2018) Marine Protected Planet [On-line], [May 2018], Cambridge, UK  
Available at [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net)

# Progress to date in coverage of protected areas



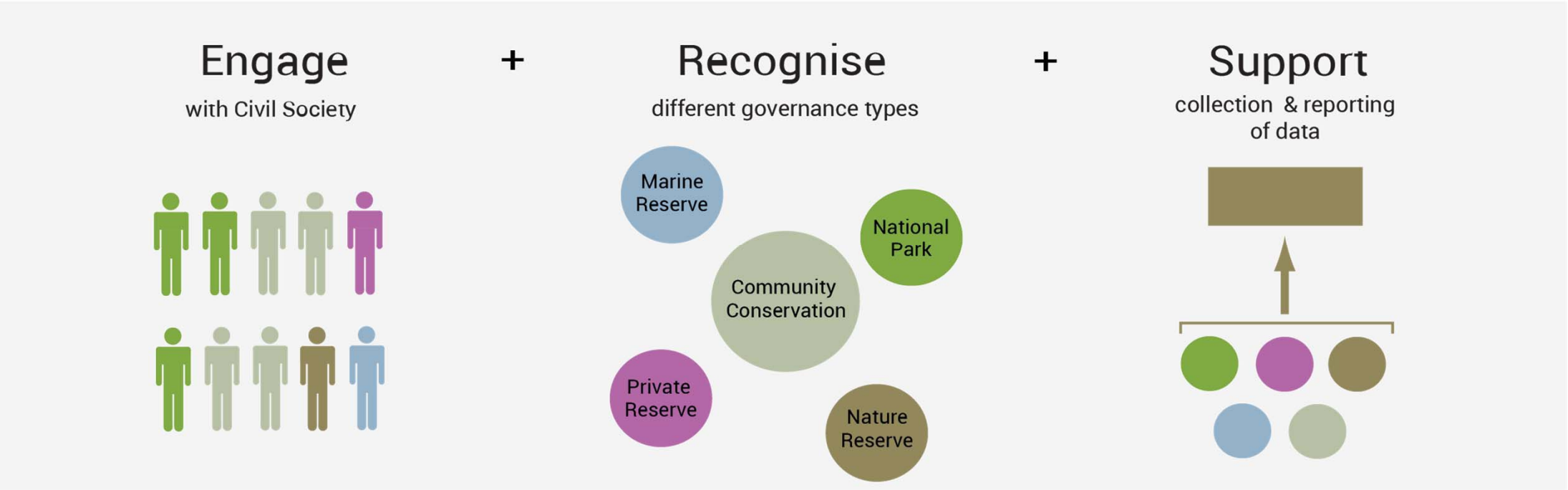
Source: UNEP-WCMC, July 2018

## Protected Areas

The 235,000 sites that make up the 46 million km<sup>2</sup> covered by protected areas across the planet consist of a variety of types of protected areas. There are over 1,500 different designations which include formally designated sites, private protected areas and increasingly sites governed by **local communities** and indigenous peoples. Of the 10 largest protected areas on land, 4 are governed by and indigenous peoples

# Protected Areas

In order to scale up our ambition and conserve biodiversity, we need to:



# Engage

with Civil Society



## Scale up our ambition and conserve biodiversity

We need to engage with civil society - local communities – to promote the benefits of protected areas, both for biodiversity and the communities themselves.

# Recognise

different governance types

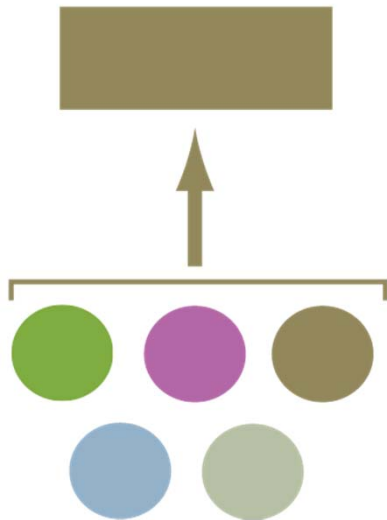


## Scale up our ambition and conserve biodiversity

Protected areas come in a variety of forms with different governance. Governance by local communities has been shown across the world to lead to effective protected areas. In many parts of the world sites governed by local communities are considered to be a key pillar of the protected areas network.

# Support

collection & reporting  
of data



## Scale up our ambition and conserve biodiversity

We need to ensure these sites are collected so their role in conserving biodiversity can be assessed.



## Benefits of protected areas to local communities

Protected areas provide series of benefits, some of these are directly for local communities while others benefit the wider community.

## Benefits of protected areas to local communities

Benefits include:

Provision of **food**; for example mangroves provide valuable breeding grounds for fish

**Water**: A number of cities receive their water directly from surrounding protected areas

**Raw materials**: a number of protected areas allow for sustainable harvesting of key products which both provides raw materials as well as enhances livelihoods

**Medicine**: provide sustainable source of medicinal plants

**Genetic** resources, protection of wild species that are the relatives of domesticated crops

## Benefits of protected areas to local communities

Regulatory services:

**Carbon** storage; a minimum of 15% of the worlds stored Carbon in in protected areas. This helps mitigate climate change

**Mitigation of natural disasters:** protected against storm surges, landslides, floods, prevent desertification,

**Clean air and water:** help purify air and water

**Pollination:** act as refuges for pollinators

## Benefits of protected areas to local communities

Cultural services:

**Recreation & Tourism:** increased ecotourism in recent times

**Physical and mental well being:** “Healthy Parks, Healthy People”

**Education and research:** ideal locations for research

**Cultural identify:** a number of sites have cultural or spiritual significance for people or even a country.

**Peace and stability:** protected areas have been used to promote peace and resolve border disputes

## Local communities of Protected Areas

Local communities are an integral actor in protecting biodiversity. Protected areas provide a number of direct and indirect benefits to local communities and indeed to the wider society. Local communities need to be engaged with and involved in the governance and management of protected areas, so they have a sense of ownership of the site. The various benefits of protected areas need to be communicated to those people living in and around protected areas to ensure that they see the “value” of the sites.

Thank you!

 @Protected Planet

 @protectedplanet

[brian.macsharry@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:brian.macsharry@unep-wcmc.org)

[www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net)

