UN environment WCMC

**UN Environment
World Conservation Monitoring Centre**

BIOPAMA REGIONAL INCEPTION MEETING: PACIFIC

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Who are we?

- UN Environment's specialist biodiversity assessment centre, based in Cambridge, UK

- A unique collaboration between UN Environment and UK charity WCMC

- Providers of biodiversity data and knowledge for nearly 40 years, in collaboration with many partners

- Over 100 staff members, covering biodiversity and ecosystem services, along with social scientists, economists, lawyers, GIS experts, data managers and thematic experts
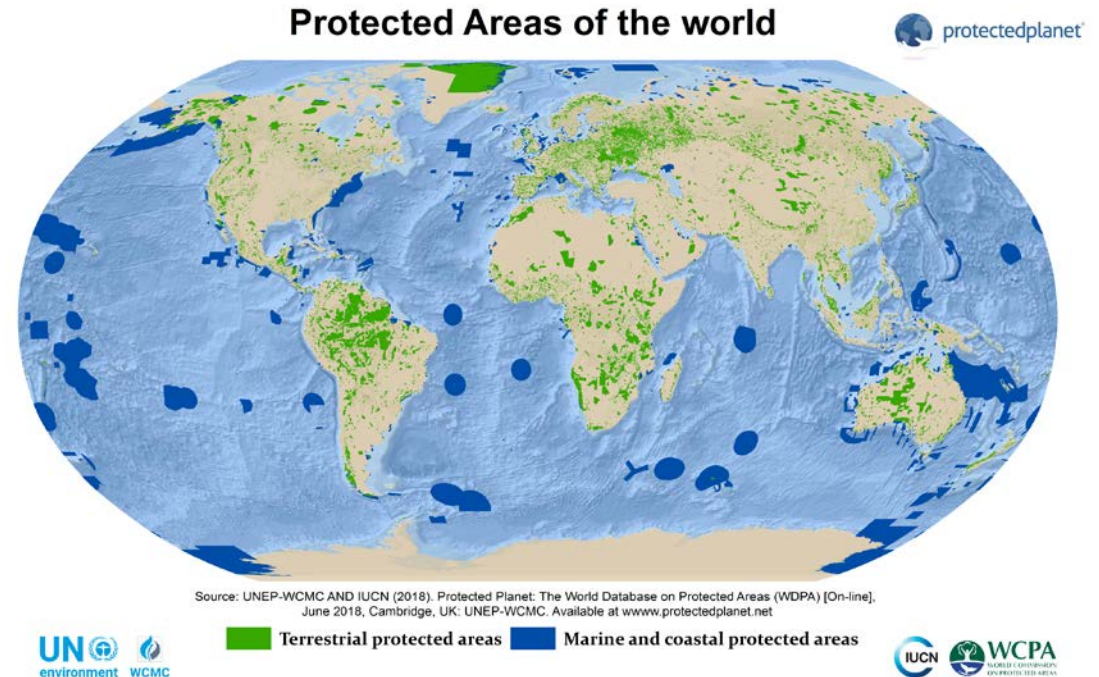
Role of UNEP-WCMC in BIOPAMA

Helping to address challenges identified by ACP countries in collating, managing and analysing protected areas data by:

a) Providing training to the Regional Observatories on PA data collection, management and analysis;

b) Improving the data in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) that feeds into DOPA; and

c) Helping to streamline data collection and data sharing processes among ACP countries.

The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

- The WDPA is the only global authoritative database on terrestrial and marine protected areas

- A joint initiative between UN Environment and IUCN

- Compiled and managed by UNEP-WCMC in collaboration with governments and other data-providers

- Includes areas that meet the IUCN definition of a protected area, under any IUCN governance type
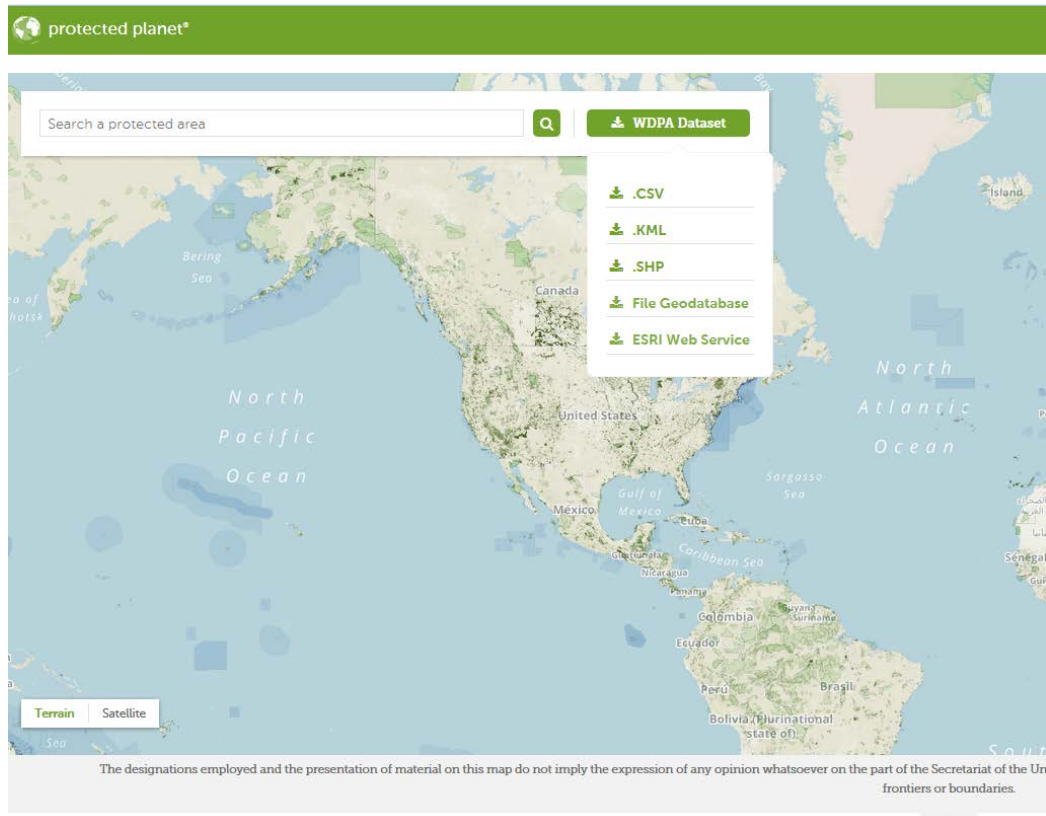
Protected Areas of the world

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

■ Terrestrial protected areas ■ Marine and coastal protected areas

Over 230,000 records
245 countries & territories

Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)

- Guidance on OECMs has been provided by an IUCN task force, and parties to the CBD will consider this guidance at the COP in late 2018.

- They are likely to be clearly-defined areas that contribute to conservation in the long-term, but conservation does not need to be their primary objective (unlike protected areas).

- Like protected areas, OECMs can have any governance type (government, private, community or shared).

- Countries can begin reporting on any areas that fit this description to UNEP-WCMC via the Regional Observatory.

Protected Planet: www.protectedplanet.net

More than just the WDPA!

Regional and national level focus

Protected area coverage per country/territory by UN Environment Regions

This page provides access to national statistics for every country and territory classified under the UN Environment Regions. The regions listed below are based upon UN Environment's Global Environment Outlook (GEO ↗) process. For a detailed discussion on the use of regions for reporting and the links between the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES ↗) regional/subregional assessments please refer to the paper "Analysing biodiversity and conservation knowledge products to support regional environmental assessments" by Brooks et al ↗, published in Nature's Scientific Data in February 2016.

⬇ Download complete country codes list as a .CSV

Africa	⊕

Asia & Pacific	⊖

Country name ⇕	ISO alpha-3 ⇕
Afghanistan	AFG
Australia	AUS
Bangladesh	BGD
Bhutan	BTN
Brunei Darussalam	BRN
Cambodia	KHM
China	CHN
Cook Islands	COK
Fiji	FJI
India	IND
Indonesia	IDN

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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Number of Countries

56

Number of Protected areas

29,293

Polygons/Points ratio

95%	5%
Polygons	Points

Number of sources

For International designations	23
For National designations	156
TOTAL	179

Protected areas coverage (Ref 1 ↓)

Area terrestrial

18.89% coverage   4,558,596 km² Land Area Protected   31,130,413 km² Total Land Area

Area marine

12.27% coverage   11,110,431 km² Marine Area Protected   61,037,206 km² Total Marine Area

Warning: These statistics might differ from those reported officially by countries due to difference in methodologies and datasets used to assess protected area coverage and differences in the base maps used to measure terrestrial and marine area of a country or territory.
Learn how we calculate protected area coverage statistics

Why should the WDPA data be updated?

National scale

- A globally reaching platform from which to showcase your protected area network

    1.26 million page views in 2017 (up 68% from 2016)

    73,000 downloads across 233 countries

Regional and international scale

- Have one definitive platform with which to assess and compare all parts of the region, e.g. areas not included in BIOPAMA.

- The WDPA includes sites with national, regional and international level designations.

- Provides the ability to undertake gap analyses and identify priorities in the region.

- Decision making: Multiple high-profile organisations use the WDPA in their decision making for a wide variety of purposes.

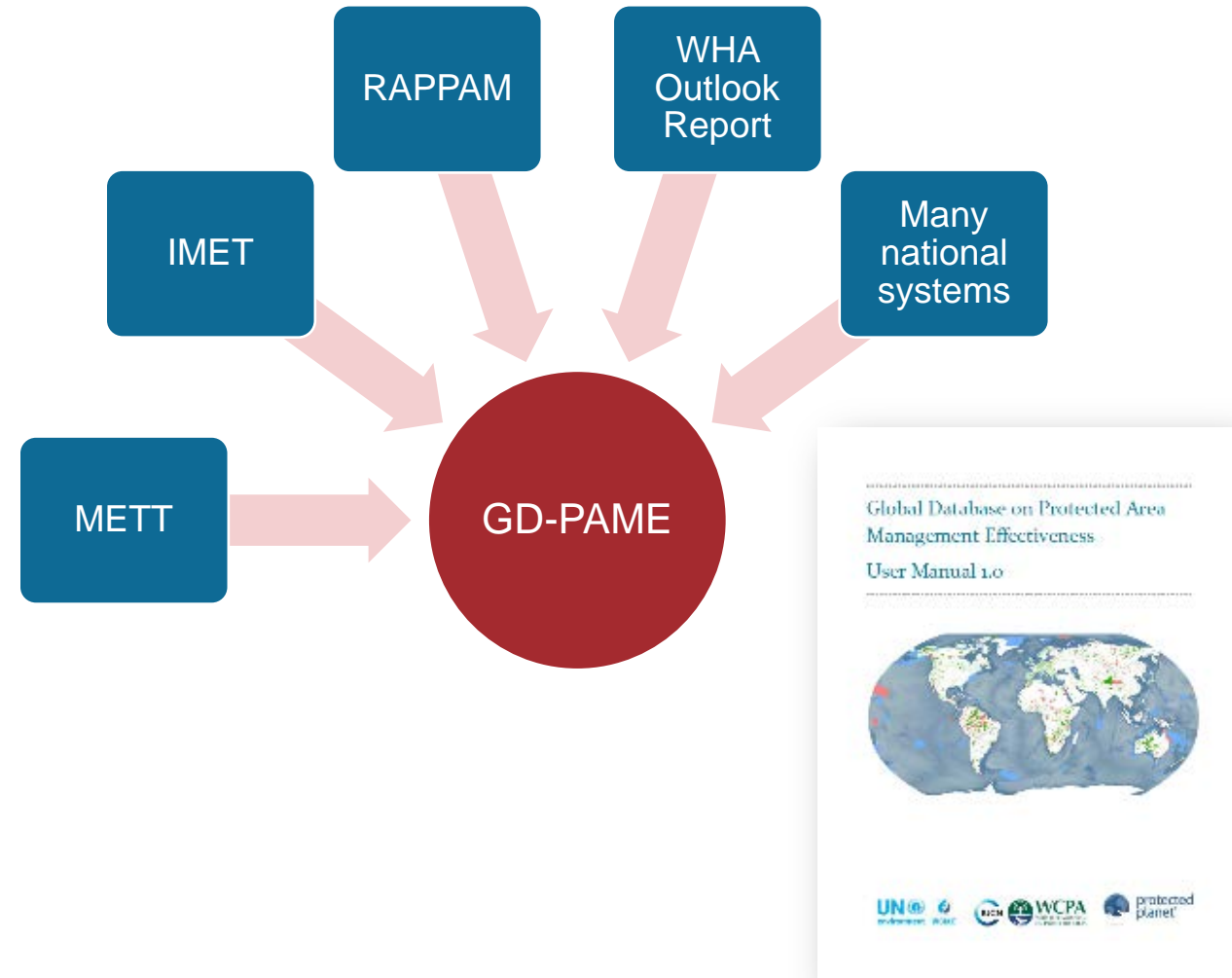# Why should the WDPA data be updated?

International Level

- Indicators: accuracy is important to demonstrate national and regional progress towards MEAs (e.g. Aichi targets/ SDGs)

Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME)

- About 30,000 assessments; 21,756 PAs; over 240 countries & territories

- Tracks if a PA has been assessed, when and using what system

- Over 70 different systems in use

- Official CBD reporting requirement (call officially closing in July 2018)

- Information gathered will inform the UN List on Protected Area Management Effectiveness, due to launch at CBD COP

Focus on the Pacific island nations: WDPA

- 555 protected areas in the region
- 19% terrestrial, 32% coastal and 49% marine
- ~ 2,950,000 km^2 under protection
- 3.3% of terrestrial area and 15.3% of marine area under protection
- 57 different protected area designations
- 9 different forms of stated governance

Focus on the Pacific island nations : WDPA

National data providers (41%)

- e.g. Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (updated in 2015)

- e.g. Environment and Conservation Division, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, Kiribati (updated in 2016)

International data providers (2%)

- e.g. Ramsar Convention Secretariat (regularly updated)

Other (57%)

- e.g. Vanuatu Protected Areas Initiative, Wan Tok Environment Centre, Santo, Vanuatu, (updated in 2003)
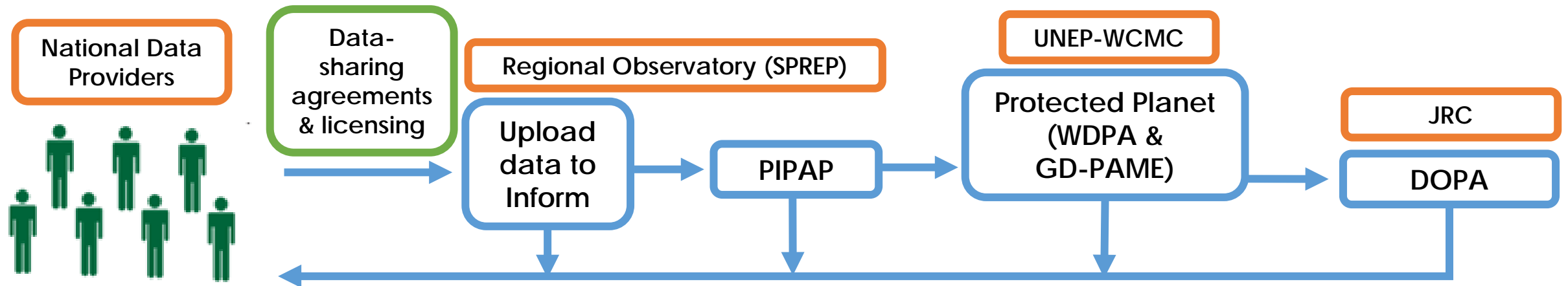
Focus on the Pacific island nations : WDPA

But do these data still reflect reality?

- Year of latest update ranges from 1987 to 2018

- 58% have defined boundaries but 42% do not

- Completeness of descriptive information is uneven

- Are we fully incorporating areas under different governance types?

- Are these areas still considered protected areas?

- Has their status changed? E.g. proposed to designated?

How will the RO help improve this?

- Better knowledge of appropriate contact points and regional context
- More frequent and continuous lines of communication
- Streamlining of reporting processes, and better quality control

Summary

- The WDPA is the global authoritative database on protected areas and acts as a bridge between other databases (e.g. GD-PAME).

- Protected Planet is the online platform for these databases.

- Our current data for the Pacific need to be improved to better showcase the conservation efforts undertaken here.

- Reporting to the RO should facilitate a much smoother transfer of information, which benefits everyone.

Thank you!

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