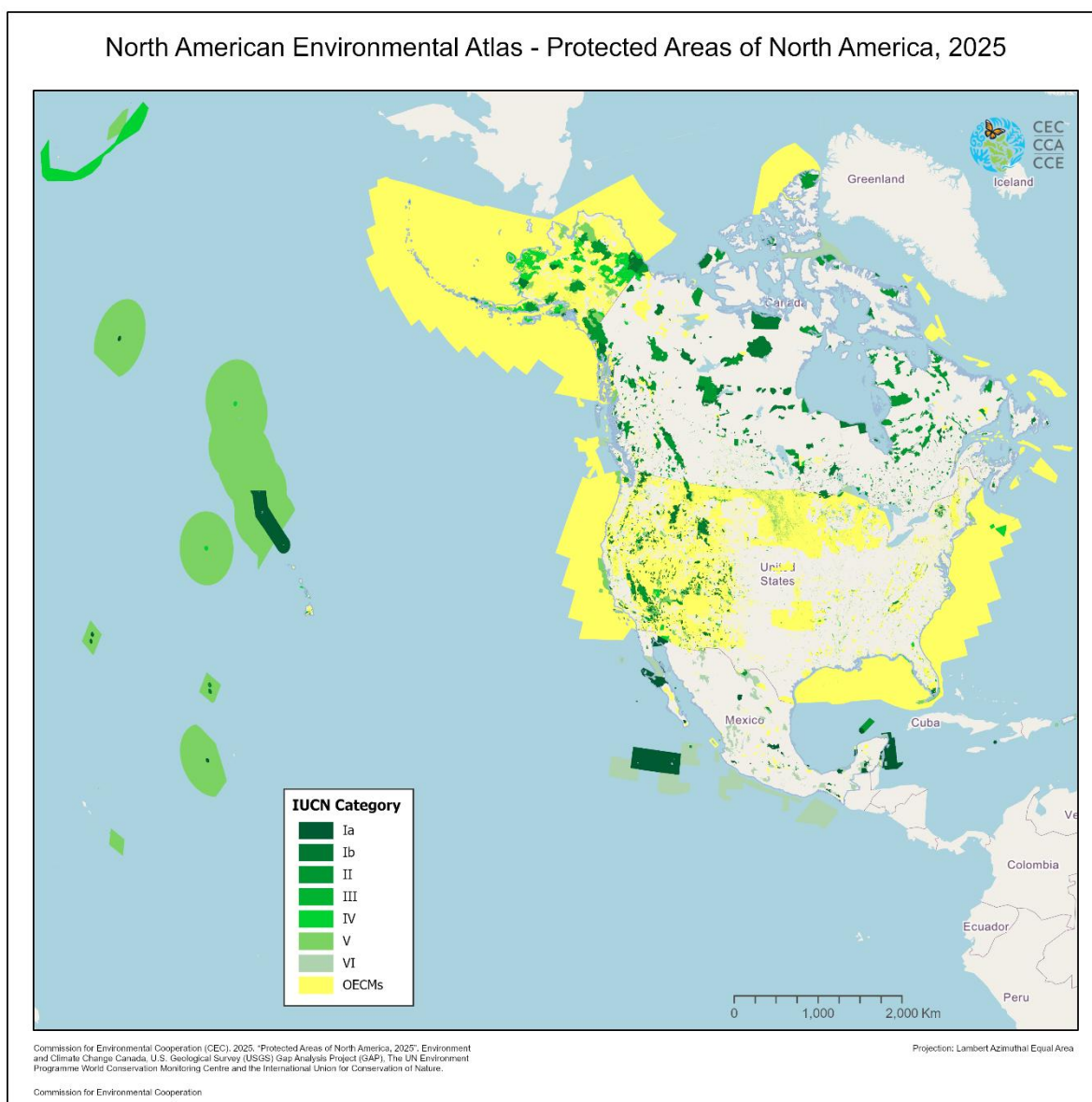


2025 North America Protected Areas, Map Sources and Attributes Description



Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Canada Protected Areas | 3 |
| Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD) | 3 |
| Description | 3 |
| United States Protected Areas | 4 |
| Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US) | 4 |
| Description | 4 |
| Mexico Protected Areas | 5 |
| World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) | 5 |
| Description | 5 |
| North America Protected Areas | 6 |
| Attribute Fields Descriptions | 7 |
| Long Descriptions | 8 |

Introduction

The North America Protected Areas map (2025 edition) is an update of the 2021 map published by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). This new version integrates the most recent databases available as of November 2024 for Canada, the United States, and Mexico, providing a comprehensive and standardized representation of protected areas across the continent.

As defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a protected area is “*a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated, and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.*” The 2025 update follows this definition, ensuring consistency in how protected areas are classified and managed across North America.

The protected areas included in this map cover a diverse range of designations. In Canada, they include National Parks, Provincial or State Parks, Territorial Parks, Indigenous Protected Areas, National Wildlife Areas and Refuges, Migratory Sanctuaries, and Marine Protected Areas. In the United States, the dataset encompasses areas dedicated to biodiversity conservation through legal structures such as Fee ownership, Easements, and other legal designation actions. In Mexico, the map includes Biosphere Reserves, National, State, and Municipal Parks, Voluntary Conservation Areas, and other conservation sites such as UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Ramsar Sites.

The primary data sources for this updated map include the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD), the Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US), and the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) for Mexico. These datasets were selected to ensure consistency and accuracy in the representation of protected areas across the three countries.

This new version is delivered in geodatabase format, containing four vector layers that categorize marine and terrestrial protected areas into two groups. The first group consists of protected areas with a “IUCN category”, while the second includes “other conservation areas” that do not meet the formal IUCN definition of protected areas but are managed in a way that conserves biodiversity over the long term and are subject to special protection.

Several key improvements have been introduced in this 2025 update. The map now standardizes 21 attribute fields across North America, ensuring consistency in data representation. It also includes additional conservation areas not classified under the IUCN system, providing a more comprehensive view of conservation efforts. Detailed descriptions of IUCN categories, as well as links to source data for each polygon, have been added to improve accessibility and data transparency.

Other refinements include the correction of naming conventions, formatting errors, and attributes inconsistencies across all three countries. In Canada, subsurface rights information has been incorporated, while governance type classifications have been standardized in both Canada and Mexico. In the United States, the protected areas classification has been refined, addressing spelling, formatting, and data structure inconsistencies.

This new version also enhances spatial accuracy by reducing redundant polygons. Areas belonging to the same protected area and sharing identical attributes have been merged, improving data integrity. Geometry errors from the source datasets have been corrected, ensuring more accurate spatial calculations using GIS tools. Finally, transitioning to geodatabase format has significantly improved the map's display and analyses performance, unlike the previous CEC Protected Areas map, which was only available in shapefile format. These enhancements make the 2025 edition a more robust and reliable resource for understanding and managing North America's protected areas.

Canada Protected Areas

Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD)

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Spatial Domain: Canada

Geometry: Polygon

Data: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/national-wildlife-areas/protected-conserved-areas-database.html>

Source metadata: ProtectedConservedArea_UserManual_2023.pdf

Source file name: ProtectedConservedArea_2023.gdb

File name: CPCAD_Dec2023.shp

Date of Publication: December 2023

Last Update: March 2024

Description

“The Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD) contains the most up to date spatial and attribute data on marine and terrestrial protected areas (PA) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) in Canada. CPCAD is compiled and managed by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), in collaboration with federal, provincial,

territorial jurisdictions, and other data providers. CPCAD is used by a wide range of organizations, including governments, Environmental Non-Government Organizations, academia, land managers, industry, and the public. The CPCAD database evolved from the Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS). CARTS was jointly managed between Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA). CCEA developed the original tools and guidance to recognize and report on protected areas. Since 2018, CPCAD has been compiled and managed by ECCC in partnership with the data providers. CPCAD data providers include, amongst others, federal, provincial and territorial governments, as well as some local governments and private landowners.”

Citation: [Environment and Climate Change Canada \(2023\). Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database \(CPCAD\).](#)

United States Protected Areas

Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US)

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Gap Analysis Project (GAP)

Spatial Domain: United States

Geometry: Polygon

Data: <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/65294599d34e44db0e2ed7cf>

Source metadata: PADUS40_MetadataXML_FGDC.xml

Source file name: PADUS4_0_Geodatabase.gdb

File name: PADUS4_0Combined_Proclamation_Marine_Fee_Designation_Easement

Version: 4.0

Date of Publication: April 2024

Description

“The USGS Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US) is the nation's inventory of protected areas, including public land and voluntarily provided private protected areas, identified as an A-16 National Geospatial Data Asset in the Cadastre Theme (<https://ngda-cadastre-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/>). The PAD-US is an ongoing project with several published versions of a spatial database including areas dedicated to the preservation of biological diversity, and other natural (including extraction), recreational, or cultural uses, managed for these purposes through legal or other effective means. The database was originally designed to support biodiversity assessments; however, its scope expanded in recent years to include all open space public and nonprofit lands and waters. Most are public lands owned in fee (the owner of the property has full and irrevocable ownership of the land); however, permanent and long-term easements, leases, agreements, Congressional (e.g. 'Wilderness Area'), Executive (e.g. 'National Monument'), and administrative designations (e.g. 'Area of Critical Environmental Concern') documented in agency management plans are also included. The PAD-US strives to be a complete inventory of U.S. public land and other protected areas, compiling “best available” data provided by managing agencies and organizations. The PAD-US geodatabase maps and describes areas using thirty-six attributes and five separate feature classes representing the U.S. protected areas network: Fee (ownership parcels), Designation (policy-designated areas), Easement, Marine (protected areas), Proclamation, and Other Planning Boundaries. An additional Combined feature class includes the full PAD-US inventory to support data management, queries, web mapping services, and analyses. The Feature Class (FeatClass) field in the Combined layer allows users to

extract data types as needed. A Federal Data Reference file geodatabase lookup table facilitates the extraction of authoritative federal data provided or recommended by managing agencies from the Combined PAD-US inventory. PAD-US integrates spatial data to ensure public lands and other protected areas from all jurisdictions are represented. PAD-US version 4 includes a variety of updates to the previous version of the dataset achieving goals to: 1) Regularly update and improve spatial data representing the federal estate for PAD-US applications; 2) Update state and local lands data as state data-steward and PAD-US Team resources allow; and 3) Automate data translation efforts to increase PAD-US update efficiency. PAD-US 4 includes new and updated data from Federal State and NGO data providers. All other data were transferred from previous versions of PAD-US.

Citation: [U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\) Gap Analysis Project \(GAP\), 2024, Protected Areas Database of the United States \(PAD-US\) 4.0: U.S.](#)

Mexico Protected Areas

World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

The UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the International Union for Conservation of Nature

Spatial Domain: Global

Geometry: Polygon

Data: <https://www.protectedplanet.net/country/MEX>

Source metadata: WDPA_WDOECM_Metadata_1_6.pdf

Source file name: WDPA_WDOECM_Public_MEX_shp-polygons.shp

File name: WDPA_Mexico_2024.shp

Version: 1.6

Date of Publication: 2024

Description

"The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is a joint project of UNEP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It is compiled and managed by the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC), in collaboration with governments, non-governmental organizations, and other data providers. The databases store information on the global distribution of terrestrial and marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). The databases contain protected areas and OECMs designated at the national level and under regional and international conventions and agreements, in addition to those not legally designated. International designations include those under the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO), and sites under the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB). Regional agreements include sites under the Natura 2000 network (European), as well as Marine Protected Areas designated under regional conventions such as the Convention for the Protection of the marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and many others."

The WDPA dataset was selected as the main source for Mexico protected areas as it reports a most updated (2024) dataset than the publicly available spatial layer provided by the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (2025). WDPA data also offers a higher number of

information attributes that facilitate standardization with attributes available in the Canada and United States protected areas maps.

Citation: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2024). Protected Area Profile for Mexico from the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA)/Database on other effective area-based conservation measures, On-line, November/2024. Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN. Available at: www.protectedplanet.net

North America Protected Areas

The current version for the CEC North America Protected Areas Map is delivered as a "geodatabase file" containing four vector layers of spatial information.

The "NorthAmerica_Protected_areas_2025.gdb" geodatabase contains the following map layers:

1. CEC_NA_2025_terrestrial_IUCN_categories
 - Terrestrial areas classified according to the IUCN classification scheme.
2. CEC_NA_2025_terrestrial_OECMs
 - Terrestrial areas representing OECMs.
3. CEC_NA_2025_marine_IUCN_categories
 - Marine areas classified according to the IUCN classification scheme.
4. CEC_NA_2025_marine_OECMs
 - Marine areas representing OECMs.

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature.

OECMs: Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures are areas that do not meet the formal definition of protected areas but are managed in a way that conserves biodiversity over the long term and are subject to special protection.

Attribute Fields Descriptions

| ID | Attribute Field | Short Description | Data Type | Values Range | Example |
|----|-----------------------------|---|-----------|---|--|
| 01 | SOURCE_ID | Identification ID taken from the input map layer | Long | 0 - 790470000 | 130011100 |
| 02 | COUNTRY | Three-letter code describing country name | String | "CAN", "USA", "MEX" | MEX |
| 03 | STATE_PROV | Code describing provinces or states | String | "CA-AB" – "US-WY" | MX-MOR |
| 04 | PA_NAME | Name of the Protected Area | String | "Ahihi Kina'u Natural Area Reserve" – "Zyskowski Farm Conservation Area" | Yellowstone National Park |
| 05 | TYPE_PA | Type of Protected Area | String | "A - Park" – "World Heritage Site (natural or mixed)" | Marine National Wildlife Area |
| 06 | MGMT_AGENCY | Management Agency | String | "2843-9065 Québec inc. \ MELCCFP" – "Waste Management \ MELCCFP" | City Land - Verona Township |
| 07 | BIOME | Type of Biome defining main ecosystem characteristic | String | "Terrestrial", "Marine", "Marine/Terrestrial" | Marine |
| 08 | IUCN_CAT | Category meeting IUCN criteria | String | "Ia" – "VI" | III |
| 09 | IUCN_DES | Short description of the IUCN category | String | "Habitat/Species Management Area" – "Wilderness Area" | National Park |
| 10 | DATE_ESTAB | The year when the area was established as protected | Long | 0 – 2024 | 2011 |
| 11 | STATUS | Legal status of the protected area | String | "Designated" - "Unknown" | Proclamation |
| 12 | LEGISLAT | Official name of the legislation that provides protection to the area | String | "1978 Federal-Provincial Establishment Memorandum of Understanding" – "Yukon Wildlife Act" | National Capital Act |
| 13 | OECD | Other effective area-based conservation measures | String | "Yes", "No", "N/A" | No |
| 14 | WDPAID | Site identification number taken from the world database on protected areas | String | "1000" – "Not Reported" | 107646 |
| 15 | DATASOURCE | Source data used to compile protected areas | String | | Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US) - Edition: 4.0, 2024 |
| 16 | ORG_SOURCE | Source URL reported in input data | String | http://couchichingconserv.ca/2020/08/19/whitney-wetland-protected/ - https://yukon.ca/en/parks-protected-areas | http://albertaparks.ca/ |
| 17 | GIS_HA | Sizes of the protected area in hectares calculated in a GIS software | Double | 0 – 151200798 | 305.48 |
| 18 | COMMENTS | Comments reported in the input datasets | String | | Parcel 2 indeed. Other Open Space parcel shown on Map 780 as 5.42 Acres is combined with this parcel in Town configuration. (2.1 +5.42=7.52 Acres) |
| 19 | SUBS_RIGHT | The Sub-Surface Right Status | String | "All subsurface rights are extinguished or withdrawn" – "Surface access may occur" | Surface access is not permitted |
| 20 | GOV_TYPE | Governance Type | String | "American Indian Lands" – "Unknown" | Non-Governmental Organization |
| 21 | GAP_STS | Status code of the USA Gap Analysis Project | String | "1" – "N/A" | 3 |

Long Descriptions

01. SOURCE_ID

Unique identifier assigned by the data source. This field is only available for Canadian protected areas; Mexican and U.S. areas do not have source IDs.

02. COUNTRY

The country in which protected area falls. Countries are defined by a three-letters code.

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| CAN = Canada | MEX = Mexico | USA = United States of America |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|

03. STATE_PROV

State or province code indicating the location of each protected area, formatted as a two-letter country code followed by a two- or three-letter state/province code. If a protected area spans multiple states or provinces, all applicable codes are listed. Marine protected areas are identified by the country code and a general description of their location.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CA-AB = Alberta | MX-JAL = Jalisco | US-DC = Washington DC | US-NH = New Hampshire |
| CA-BC = British Columbia | MX-MEX = State of Mexico | US-DE = Delaware | US-NJ = New Jersey |
| CA-MB = Manitoba | MX-MIC = Michoacán | US-FL = Florida | US-NM = New Mexico |
| CA-NB = New Brunswick | MX-MOR = Morelos | US-FM = Fed States of Micronesia | US-NV = Nevada |
| CA-NL = Newfoundland and Labrador | MX-NAY = Nayarit | US-GA = Georgia | US-NY = New York |
| CA-NS = Nova Scotia | MX-NLE = Nuevo León | US-GU = Guam | US-OH = Ohio |
| CA-NT = Northwest Territories | MX-OAX = Oaxaca | US-HI = Hawaii | US-OK = Oklahoma |
| CA-NU = Nunavut | MX-PUE = Puebla | US-IA = Iowa | US-OR = Oregon |
| CA-ON = Ontario | MX-QRO = Querétaro | US-ID = Idaho | US-PA = Pennsylvania |
| CA-PE = Prince Edward Island | MX-ROO = Quintan Roo | US-IL = Illinois | US-PR = Puerto Rico |
| CA-QC = Quebec | MX-SIN = Sinaloa | US-IN = Indiana | US-PW = Palau |
| CA-SK = Saskatchewan | MX-SLP = San Luis Potosí | US-KS = Kansas | US-RI = Rhode Island |
| CA-YT = Yukon | MX-SON = Sonora | US-KY = Kentucky | US-SC = South Carolina |
| MX-AGU = Aguascalientes | MX-TAB = Tabasco | US-LA = Louisiana | US-SD = South Dakota |
| MX-BCN = Baja California | MX-TAM = Tamaulipas | US-MA = Massachusetts | US-TN = Tennessee |
| MX-BCS = Baja California Sur | MX-TLA = Tlaxcala | US-MD = Maryland | US-TX = Texas |
| MX-CAM = Campeche | MX-VER = Veracruz | US-ME = Maine | US-UM = Minor Outlying Islands |
| MX-CHH = Chihuahua | MX-ZAC = Zacatecas | US-MH = Marshall Islands | US-UT = Utah |
| MX-CHP = Chiapas | US-AK = Alaska | US-MI = Michigan | US-VA = Virginia |
| MX-CMX = Mexico City | US-AR = Alabama | US-MN = Minnesota | US-VI = Virgin Islands |
| MX-COA = Coahuila | US-AR = Arkansas | US-MO = Missouri | US-VT = Vermont |
| MX-COL = Colima | US-AS = American Samoa | US-MS = Mississippi | US-WA = Washington |
| MX-DUR = Durango | US-AZ = Arizona | US-MT = Montana | US-WI = Wisconsin |
| MX-GRO = Guerrero | US-CA = California | US-NC = North Carolina | US-WV = West Virginia |
| MX-GUA = Guanajuato | US-CO = Colorado | US-ND = North Dakota | US-WY = Wyoming |
| MX-HID = Hidalgo | US-CT = Connecticut | US-NE = Nebraska | |

See complete list in:

Commission for Environmental Cooperation (2005) Guidelines for Geo-spatial data for Compatibility with the North American Atlas Framework. CEC: Montreal pp.5-11

04. PA_NAME

The official name of the protected area as assigned by the managing authority or owner. There is no predefined list of valid protected area names; all names were extracted directly from the source datasets.

05. TYPE_PA

The classification of the protected area, based on the designation provided in the source datasets. There is no predefined list of valid types, as the values are taken directly from the data contributors.

06. MGMT_AGENCY

The primary agency responsible for managing the area or the type of agency overseeing it. There is no predefined list of valid agencies or agency types, as these are taken directly from the source datasets. In the United States, this field combines the manager's name and the local owner.

07. BIOME

Indicates whether a protected area is marine, terrestrial, or a combination of both.

08. IUCN_CAT

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classification of the protected area, reflecting its management objective.

| IUCN Category | IUCN Category Name | IUCN Category Description |
|---------------|--|---|
| Ia | Strict Nature Reserve | Protected areas that are strictly set aside to protect biodiversity and also possibly geological-geomorphological features, where human visitation, use and impacts are strictly controlled and limited to ensure protection of the conservation values. Such protected areas can serve as indispensable reference areas for scientific research and monitoring. |
| Ib | Wilderness Area | Protected areas that are usually large unmodified or slightly modified areas, retaining their natural character and influence, without permanent or significant human habitation, which are protected and managed so as to preserve their natural condition. |
| II | National Park | Large natural or near natural areas set aside to protect large-scale ecological processes, along with the complement of species and ecosystems characteristic of the area, which also provide a foundation for environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities. |
| III | Natural Monument or Feature | Protected areas set aside to protect a specific natural monument, which can be a landform, sea mount, submarine cavern, geological feature such as a cave or even a living feature such as an ancient grove. They are generally quite small protected areas and often have high visitor value. |
| IV | Habitat/Species Management Area | Protected areas aiming to protect particular species or habitats and management reflects this priority. Many category IV protected areas will need regular, active interventions to address the requirements of particular species or to maintain habitats, but this is not a requirement of the category. |
| V | Protected Landscape/Seascape | A protected area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values. |
| VI | Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources | Protected areas that conserve ecosystems and habitats, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems. They are generally large, with most of the area in a natural condition, where a proportion is under sustainable natural resource management and where low-level non-industrial use of natural resources compatible with nature conservation is seen as one of the main aims of the area. |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Other Conservation Area | Other Conservation Area | Other effective area-based conservation measures or other sites that do not meet the protected area definition. |
| Not Applicable | Not Applicable | Not Applicable. |
| Not Reported | Not Reported | Not reported. |
| Unassigned | Unassigned | Site that meets the standard definition of a protected area, but the category of protection has not yet been determined. |

09. IUCN_DES

The IUCN category name that defines the primary characteristics of the protected area.

10. DATE_ESTAB

The year when legislation officially designated the area as protected.

11. STATUS

The legal status of the protected area, as provided in the source data. Some status categories may overlap.

| Status | Description |
|---------------------|---|
| Designated | In the United States, this is applied to management boundaries not tied to title documents (e.g. 'National Monument', 'Wild and Scenic River', and some 'State Wildlife Management Area') overlapping fee ownership parcels. In Canada and Mexico, this represents a site recognized or dedicated through temporary or permanent legal means, implies specific binding commitment to conservation in the long term. |
| Easement | In the United States, it creates a legally enforceable land preservation agreement between a landowner and government agency or qualified land protection organization (i.e. land trust). |
| Established | In Canada, a site recognized or dedicated through other effective means. Implies commitment to conservation outcomes in the long term, but not necessarily with legal recognition. |
| Interim | In Canada, a site functionally protected/conserved sites that are in the process of being legally or otherwise formally designated. These will be reported to WDPA as "Established" to align with the WDPA definition. |
| Fee | The most common way real estate is owned. |
| Inscribed | Only applicable to protected areas designated under the World Heritage Convention. |
| Marine | Outer continental shelf land. |
| Proclamation | Defines the outer boundaries of areas without internal ownership defined (e.g. Tribal Lands, Military Land and Approved Acquisition Boundaries) |
| Other | Types of protection that might include leases, agreements, or deed restrictions. |
| Unknown | No clear status is reported in the data source. |

12. LEGISLAT

The official name of the legislation that grants protection to Canadian protected areas. This information is only available for data sourced from the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD). There is no predefined list of valid legislation names, as they were taken directly from the CPCAD dataset.

13. OECM

Indicates whether a protected area qualifies as an Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure (OECM). This designation applies to areas that do not meet the criteria for an IUCN classification but are still recognized for their role in long-term biodiversity conservation.

14. WDPAID

The unique identification number assigned to the protected area in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). This field contains valid values only for the Mexican portion of the map.

15. DATASOURCE

The dataset from which the protected area information was obtained. This field identifies the three primary data sources used for compilation.

| |
|---|
| Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD), 2023 |
| Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US) - Edition: 4.0, 2024 |
| World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), November 2024 |

16. ORG_SOURCE

The source URL from the input data, provided when available.

17. GIS_HA

The size of the protected area in hectares, as calculated by GIS software.

18. COMMENTS

This attribute is an open text field containing general comments from the original datasets. In Mexico, comments primarily indicate UNESCO criteria for designating a protected area as a World Heritage Site or Ramsar Site. Definitions of these criteria are available in the respective World Heritage and Ramsar documentation. The information in this field is sourced directly from the original datasets and is not the responsibility of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

19. SUBS_RIGHT

The Sub-Surface Rights Status identifies the agencies, organizations, and/or individuals holding sub-surface rights within a protected or conserved area for activities such as exploration and resource extraction, including oil and gas. This field contains information only for Canadian protected areas.

20. GOV_TYPE

The Governance Type describes the decision-making structure of a protected or conserved area, indicating where the authority for delegating management responsibilities resides.

21. GAP_STS

Status code of the USA Gap Analysis Project. This field only contains information for US protected areas.

| GAP Status | Description |
|--------------------------|--|
| GAP Status Code 1 | An area in the United States having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and a mandated management plan in operation to maintain a natural state within which disturbance events (of natural type, |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| | frequency, intensity, and legacy) are permitted to proceed without interference or are mimicked through management. |
| GAP Status Code 2 | An area in the United States having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and a mandated management plan in operation to maintain a primarily natural state, but which may receive uses or management practices that degrade the quality of existing natural communities, including suppression of natural disturbance. |
| GAP Status Code 3 | An area in the United States having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover for most of the area, but subject to extractive uses of either a broad, low-intensity type (e.g., logging, Off Highway Vehicle recreation) or localized intense type (e.g., mining). It also confers protection to Federally listed endangered and threatened species throughout the area. |
| GAP Status Code 4 | There are no known public or private institutional mandates or legally recognized easements or deed restrictions held by the managing entity to prevent conversion of natural habitat types to anthropogenic habitat types. The area generally allows conversion to unnatural land cover throughout or management intent is unknown. |

Notes and Disclaimers

- The final maps include all polygons representing protected areas, incorporating both national classifications and international classification schemes. As a result, multiple polygons may spatially represent the same protected area (overlapping polygons) but with different attribute sets corresponding to their respective classification schemes.
- Total area calculations should not be performed by simply summing all individual polygon areas. Due to the overlapping nature of classifications, this may lead to spatial redundancy and double counting of areas.
- The "comments" field was populated with information extracted from the input map layers. The content of this field reflects the original datasets and is not the responsibility of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.
- The final geometry of all protected area polygons and any geometrical errors are the responsibility of the input databases available for each country. The Commission for Environmental Cooperation is responsible for the cartographic standardization process and information refinement, including the correction of evident errors identified during the preparation of the North American Protected Areas Map.
- Any additional errors or incorrect assignments of protected areas and their associated information remain the sole responsibility of the agencies that provide the original data.