



TERMS OF REFERENCE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES IUCN SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas TASK FORCE

Background

The creation of the IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force (MMPAs Task Force) was formally announced in 2013 in Marseilles, France, at the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC3). Two seminal global conferences of the International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (ICMMPA) in Hawaii, 2009, and Martinique, 2011, laid the groundwork for the structure and mission of the Task Force, and two workshops at the third conference (ICMMPA3, Adelaide, Australia, 2014) and another at the fourth conference (ICMMPA4, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Nov. 2016) have defined the work of the Task Force.

Purpose of Task Force/Specialist Group

The MMPAs Task Force was developed through the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and Species Survival Commission (SSC), and through the International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (ICMMPA) to give a stronger voice to marine mammal needs within IUCN and to serve the larger marine mammal protected area community of practice.

In 2016-2019, the MMPAs Task Force is rolling out a tool to apply criteria to identify and potentially protect marine mammal habitats. This tool—developed through workshops and extensive scientific and public consultation—is called “Important Marine Mammal Areas”, or IMMAs. IMMAs are defined as “discrete portions of habitat, important to marine mammal species, that have the potential to be delineated and managed for conservation.” IMMAs consist of areas that deserve space-based protection and can be seen as a potential marine mammal layer for consideration by governments, intergovernmental organisations, conservation groups, and the general public.

The IMMA tool will bring a standardized process to the preparation of data for:

- identification of IUCN marine key biodiversity areas (KBAs), as part of species and ecosystem conservation in national waters and on the high seas,
- the selection of MPAs and MPA networks as well as marine mammal habitat zones within existing MPAs,
- the CBD process to identify ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs), mainly on the high seas,
- marine spatial planning (MSP), a process for allocating spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological and economic objectives, which is being adopted over the next few years by more than 90 governments of the world, and
- the identification of areas where marine mammals are threatened by ship strike or noise, useful for International Maritime Organisation (IMO) directives and particularly sensitive sea areas (PSSAs).

The IMMA tool mirrors the Important Bird Area (IBA) approach adopted by BirdLife some years ago which has been successful in terms of ensuring the consistent and comprehensive identification of critical bird habitats on land and at sea.

Integration in GPAP/WCPA’s Quadrennial Programme 2017-2020 (describe but also use checklist below to indicate which areas are covered)

The overall goals and objectives are in line with the quadrennial programme as noted below.

Objective 1: Establishing Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) through a series of expert workshops throughout the southern hemisphere (2017-2021)

Goals and activities: (List these paying attention to SMART objectives see below)

- Organize one workshop per year across 6 regions of the southern hemisphere roughly corresponding to IUCN WCPA marine regions.
- Call for Areas of Interest (Aoi) from the selected region
- Hold workshop over 5 days to identify candidate IMMAs.
- Prepare preliminary report.
- Send cIMMAs to independent review panel for peer review.
- Revert to experts who need to do more work on their cIMMAs.
- Announce final IMMAs and put into e-Atlas on website.
- Organize a regional Task Force group from the expert workshop group for follow-up activities in each area.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare final report and communicate widely. 	
Objective 2: Implementing Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) through engagement with three communities/ countries in the southern hemisphere (2017-2020), beginning with Palau, Oct. 2017	
Goals and activities: (List these paying attention to SMART objectives see below)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize core Task Force group to make a site visit to an area named as an IMMA. • Meet with local community and discuss options for conservation. • Help prepare and action plan or draft management plan, as needed. • Write up and help publicize Task Force findings. 	
Objective 3: Make larger connections with the Task Force's work on IMMAs with international conventions and agreements, scientists, governments, NGOs, public at workshops, conferences and special meetings.	
Goals and activities: (List these paying attention to SMART objectives see below)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make presentations at many different fora (CMS, CBD, OECM, TransAtlantic Marine Mammals network, Society of Marine Mammalogy, European Cetacean Society agm, and engage in discussions and outreach. 	
Objective 4: [Describe]	
Goals and activities: (List these paying attention to SMART objectives see below)	
Leadership, membership and organization	
<p>A list of members of the IUCN WCPA/SSC Joint Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force can be found on the marinemammalhabitat.org website. Membership is kept at approximately 20-30 members and reviewed annually.</p>	
Partnerships, funding and fund-raising	
<p>Partnerships continue with Tethys Research Institute (Italy), Whale and Dolphin Conservation (UK), French Biodiversity Agency, International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, with GOBI-IKI partnership and funding</p>	
Communication	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Populating website marinemammalhabitat.org with Task Force news and developments including the creation of an e-Atlas to show Important Marine Mammal Areas region by region following the workshops. 2. Regular facebook posts, blogs, tweets by co-chairs and secretariat on their own and task force pages. 3. Research papers planned and in process for 2018 Aquatic Mammals. 4. Accounts on Task Force IMMA tool written up in articles in two books published 2018: Encyclopedia of Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises and Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals (3rd edition). 	
Reporting	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A separate report is prepared for each workshop as noted above and is available for download from marinemammalhabitat.org 2. End of year reporting to IUCN through Dan Laffoley. 	
<p>*SMART goals are specific (who and what?), measurable (how?), attainable (realistic?), relevant (leads to results?) and timebound (within the planning period?)</p>	
IUCN PROGRAMME GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2017 - 2020	
<p>IUCN WCPA has the following goals within the 3 programme areas of the IUCN Programme 2017-2020. Please identify which goals your group or region will support by placing an X in the relevant box(es). Specify only those where you will contribute directly.</p>	
IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 1: Valuing and conserving nature	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.1:	
(i) Protected Planet includes all relevant information to monitor and report on implementation of Aichi Target 11	X
(ii) Protected area quality enhanced through Green List of Protected Areas	
(iii) Marine protection towards achieving Aichi Target 11 accelerated	X
(iv) Effectiveness of World Heritage Convention and protection of listed sites is enhanced, leadership on performance demonstrated, and nature/culture integration advanced	

WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.2:	
(i) Parties to the CBD are supported to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity	X
(ii) Institutional and professional capacity to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is developed	
(iii) Financial capacity to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is enhanced	
(iv) The value of protected areas is communicated to key constituencies including urban dwellers and young people	X
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.3	
(i) The ecological and functional connectivity of terrestrial and marine ecosystems is enhanced	
(ii) Criteria for the identification of OECMs developed and applied	
IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 2: Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.1:	
(i) Governance and equity assessment approaches for protected area systems are developed	
(ii) Pilot governance assessments conducted	X
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.2:	
(i) Governance quality and equity of protected areas is enhanced	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.3:	
(i) Legal and institutional approaches for enhancing the role of PAs in natural resource governance are piloted	X
IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 3: Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.1	
(i) Case studies for nature-based solutions involving PAs in a range of sectors are collated	X
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.2	
(i) Dissemination and use of PAs as nature-based solutions across a range of sectors	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.3	
(i) Cross-sector learning and application of solutions is enabled	