

# IUCN WCPA/SSC Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force

2019 Report



Erich Hoyt



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## Co-Chairs

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## Location/Affiliation

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## Number of members

48

## Social networks

Facebook:

Important Marine Mammal Areas - IMMAs

Twitter: @mmpatf

Web site:

<https://www.marinemammalhabitat.org>



## Mission statement

The goal of the Marine Mammal Protected Areas (MMPA) Task Force is to facilitate mechanisms to encourage collaboration, sharing information and experience to access and disseminate knowledge and tools for establishing, monitoring, and managing MMPAs and promoting effective spatial solutions and best practices for marine mammal conservation.

## Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By bringing to the attention of managers, decision makers and the general public the presence and whereabouts of important marine mammal areas (IMMAs), we are facilitating the consideration of marine mammal habitats in decisions concerning marine spatial planning and the planning of human activities at sea that have or can have a negative impact on marine mammal status. IMMAs have also been brought to the attention of policy makers, having been the subject of Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Resolution 12.13. Most of this work, however, is given the recent date IMMAs made public.

## Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

### Act

Conservation actions: complete Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMA) identification in the tropical and temperate Indian and South Pacific Oceans.

### Network

Membership: increase Task Force membership through addition of regional group coordinators.

Synergy: improve streamlining between the IMMA and the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) processes.

## Activities and results 2019

### Act

#### Conservation actions

**i.** On 4–8 March 2019, the Task Force completed the fifth Important Marine Mammal Area Workshop in Salalah, Oman. The week-long workshop hosted 38 marine mammal scientists and observers from 15 countries to map the important habitats for marine mammals in the western Indian Ocean and Arabian Seas. Fifty-five candidate IMMAs were identified, along with 13 areas of interest (AoI) which will be retained as potential future IMMAs pending further research. Of these, 37 IMMAs were approved by the Independent Review Panel and are now displayed on the Task Force's e-Atlas. (KSR #26)



Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphins, Oman  
(Endangered Species in IMMAs)  
Photo: Environment Society of Oman / G.Minton

Scenes from the IMMA Workshop for the  
North East Indian Ocean and South East Asian Seas  
Photo: Erich Hoyt 2018



Researchers and observers in Salalah, Oman at the IMMA  
Workshop for the Western Indian Ocean and Arabian Seas  
Photo: Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force 2020

**Network**

Membership

i. New members were recruited in large part by inviting to the Task Force regional experts who volunteered to act as Regional Coordinators. Overall, 15 new members joined.

Synergy

i. Creating KBAs is not part of our tasks, but we facilitate the process by indicating IMMAs that could qualify as KBAs during regional workshops. In 2019, we were not systematic about facilitating transition from IMMA to KBAs during regional workshops, although we remained aware of the possibility of IMMAs qualifying as KBAs and have had a KBA researcher involved. But it was left mostly to the initiative of relevant KBA National Coordination Groups (e.g. Mozambique). (KSR #29)

**Acknowledgements**

The Task Force wishes to acknowledge the support of the German Ministry of Environment through its IKI programme, facilitated by the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), which made the effort of identifying IMMAs in the West Indian Ocean and Arabian Seas possible. Tethys Research Institute and Whale and Dolphin Conservation provided key administrative support.

**Summary of activities 2019**

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

Act	1	
Network	2	

Main KSRs addressed: 26, 29

KSR: Key Species Result