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# 24.2.1 Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)

CMS COP12 Regional Preparatory Workshop  
For Oceania

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# Doc. 24.2.1 Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)

- Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) are defined as ‘***discrete portions of habitat, important to marine mammal species, that have the potential to be delineated and managed for conservation***’.
- They are an advisory, expert-based classification applied to the world’s oceans, coastal waters and shorelines, and relevant inland water bodies, consisting of areas that may merit area-based protection and/or monitoring for marine mammals.
- Four criteria for the identification of IMMAs were developed by the IUCN Task Force on marine mammal protected areas. They are been applied on a regional basis to cover the world’s oceans and seas.



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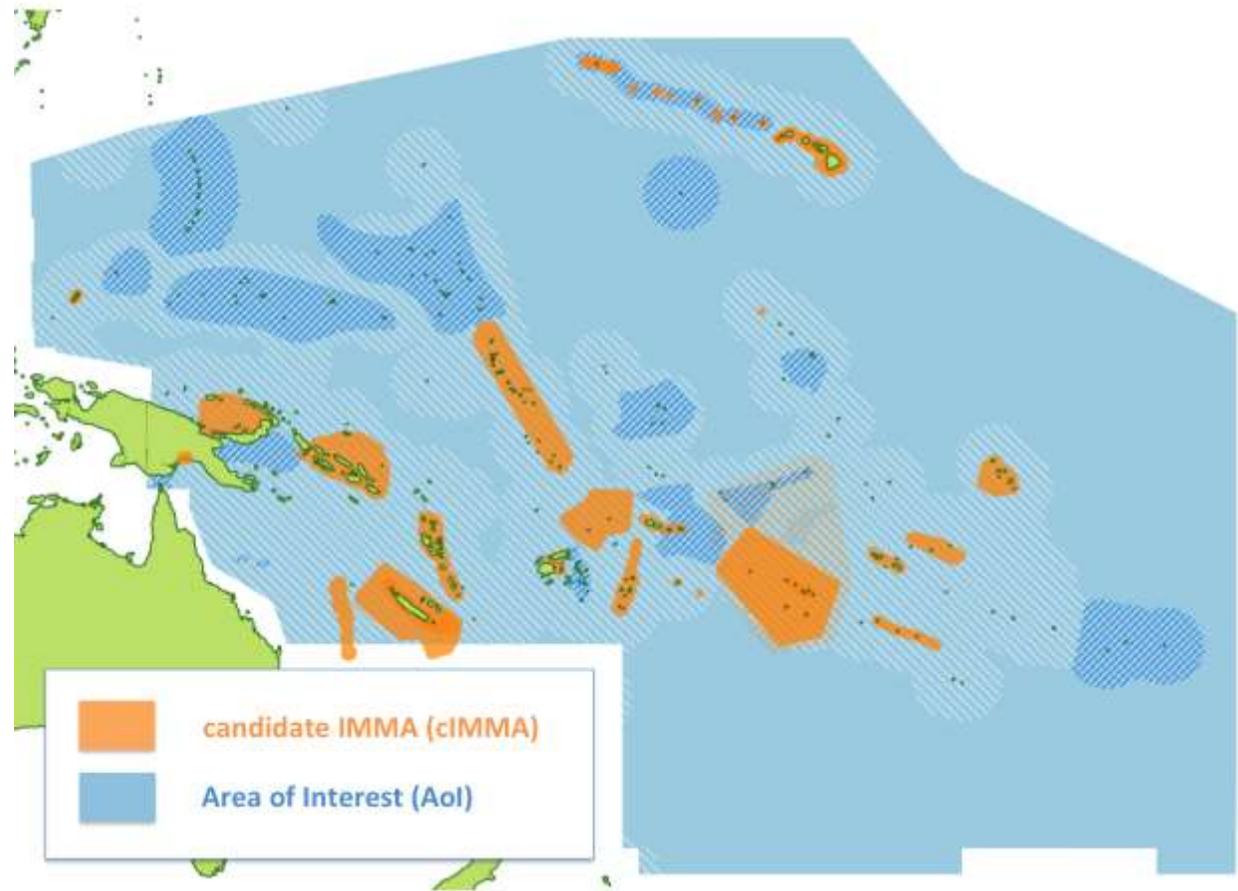
- Two expert workshops have taken place until now: in the Mediterranean region (October 2016) in partnership with ACCOBAMS, and in the Pacific Islands region (March 2017) in partnership with SPREP.
- In the Mediterranean, an independent review panel confirmed the identification of 26 IMMAs and 5 cIMMAs out of the 41 proposed by the workshop.

<http://www.marinemammalhabitat.org/imma-eatlas>

- In the Pacific Island region, the workshop proposed 29 cIMMAs and 17 Aols.



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- The IMMA process has direct relevance for CMS App I and II species of marine mammals.
- CMS has recognised the value of IMMAs in Resolution 11.25, and also the role that CMS can play in coordinating conservation and management measures across species' migratory ranges, contributing to the development of ecological networks and promoting connectivity that is fully consistent with the law of the sea.
- The Annex to CMS Resolution 11.25 indicates a number of areas of direct relevance to the evolving IMMA work.



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- **Recommended actions**
- The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
  - adopt the draft Resolution contained in Annex 1;
  - endorse the IMMA criteria contained in Annex 2, which will form an annex to the Resolution;
  - adopt the draft Decisions contained in Annex 3.



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