

Guidelines for Establishing the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas

ANZECC Task Force on Marine Protected Areas

December 1998



ANZECC

Guidelines for Establishing the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas

Australian and New Zealand Environment
and Conservation Council
Task Force on Marine Protected Areas

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Northern Territory	Parks and Wildlife Commission
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Tasmania	Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment
Victoria	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Western Australia	Department of Conservation and Land Management
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Foreword

The *Guidelines for Establishing the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas* (NRSMPA) have been prepared to assist government agencies in the development of the NRSMPA and to assist stakeholders in the understanding of this process. The *Guidelines* is one of a suite of documents which have been developed cooperatively by the Task Force on Marine Protected Areas of the Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) to assist in and promote the development of the NRSMPA. The other documents are the *Strategic Plan of Action for the NRSMPA* (ANZECC TFMPA 1998) and the *Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia* (IMCRA Technical Group 1998) otherwise known as IMCRA.

It is recognised that State, Territory and Commonwealth agencies have existing processes which, when applied in the context of a consistent national approach as set out in the *Guidelines*, will assist in the progressive development and understanding of a national system of marine protected areas.

A public comment period on an earlier draft version of the *Guidelines* was held from 20 May 1998 to 17 July 1998. Relevant comments and suggestions received have been incorporated into this version of the *Guidelines*. This version of the *Guidelines* will remain current until reviewed.

Unless otherwise stated, the use of the term marine protected area (MPA) in the *Guidelines* refers to the MPAs that comprise the NRSMPA.

Using the Guidelines

Part One – Understanding the NRSMPA sets out the goals, principles and outcomes of the NRSMPA including a discussion of which MPAs are included in this national system.

Part Two – Establishing the NRSMPA outlines a process for the collaborative development of the NRSMPA, the roles of the different jurisdictions, and the criteria for identification and selection of MPAs, for inclusion in the NRSMPA.

Part Three – Evaluating the NRSMPA discusses the evaluation process for the NRSMPA.

Part One – Understanding the NRSMPA

1.1 Introduction

Australia is the world's largest island. It has some of the most diverse, unique and spectacular marine life in the world. Its marine environment includes extensive coral reefs in the tropical north, rocky shores in the temperate south, sandy beaches, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests, the open ocean, seamounts and the habitats of the continental shelf and slope. The diversity and productivity of Australia's seas provide vital social and economic benefits. Australians depend on marine resources for income, employment, food, recreation and many other uses. Continuation of these benefits over the long term will require that marine biodiversity is conserved and resources used sustainably.

Australia is committed to the protection of marine biodiversity and ecological integrity, and the sustainable use of marine resources, through the goals and principles of ecological sustainable development (ESD). This commitment has been ratified through Australia's international responsibilities and obligations under the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (UNEP 1994), and addressed at a national level by the States and Territories under the *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment* (IGAE) (Commonwealth of Australia 1992a). It is implemented through the actions of national strategies such as the *National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development* (Commonwealth of Australia 1992) and the *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity* (Commonwealth of Australia 1996). The establishment of the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA) also supports the program of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to promote the establishment of a global representative system of marine protected areas (MPAs).

Australia's Oceans Policy – An Issues Paper (Commonwealth of Australia 1998a) emphasises the need to employ an integrated approach to marine management employing a range of mechanisms for the best protection of Australia's marine environment. These *Guidelines* refer to one part of this approach which is the establishment of a representative system of marine protected areas. This approach is widely

regarded, both nationally and internationally, as one of the most effective mechanisms for protecting biodiversity but should be seen in the context of a set of complementary and integrated conservation mechanisms. Some of the other mechanisms for marine biodiversity conservation include legislation and management for the conservation of individual marine species, reduction and management of marine pollution and the declaration and management of other marine managed areas.

While protected areas have assisted in the protection of Australia's terrestrial ecosystems for over a century, the formal conservation of Australia's marine environments and their resources is a relatively recent phenomenon.

In 1991 the Commonwealth Government initiated a long term marine conservation program to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of Australia's marine and estuarine environments. A key component of this initiative was a commitment to expand Australia's existing marine reserve system through the establishment of a NRSMPA. The establishment of a national system is a key responsibility and obligation under the conventions and strategies listed above.

In 1998 the Commonwealth Government, through the Oceans Policy process, provided strong support for the development of the NRSMPA.

While utilisation decisions made over the last two hundred years have foreclosed some options for the inclusion of many ecological communities in the reserve system, especially in the terrestrial reserve system, Australia still has the opportunity for a truly representative system of MPAs. The NRSMPA represents an exciting opportunity to progressively develop a reserve system, based on the best available scientific information, for the conservation of Australia's biodiversity and the wise use of marine resources.

The NRSMPA is being developed cooperatively by the Commonwealth, State and Northern Territory agencies responsible for conservation, protection and management of the marine environments.

Definition of a Marine Protected Area

ANZECC has adopted the IUCN definition of a 'protected area' to apply to MPAs as follows:

"An area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means." (IUCN 1994)

This definition has been recently endorsed by the Commonwealth Government, ANZECC and the Ministerial Council on Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture for use in a variety of protected area contexts. It is the definition used for a protected area in the *Interim Scientific Guidelines for Establishing the National Reserve System* (Commonwealth of Australia 1997).

For the purposes of the NRSMPA, the term 'marine protected area' (MPA) has been adopted in preference to other terminology such as 'Marine and Estuarine Protected Area' to standardise the terminology across jurisdictions.

1.2 What is the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas?

The NRSMPA forms part of an integrated strategy for marine conservation and management. The NRSMPA is a national system of MPAs which aims to contain a comprehensive, adequate and representative sample of Australia's marine ecosystems. The NRSMPA consists of MPAs in Commonwealth, State and Territory waters and some associated intertidal areas.

Within the broad framework of integrated management of ocean uses, there are a number of ways to manage marine areas that benefit biodiversity conservation. Area management operates at a range of scales across the marine environment for a variety of primary purposes. Included in these managed marine areas are the MPAs that together form the NRSMPA and the many marine managed areas that are not included in the NRSMPA. Examples of the types of marine managed areas that are not included in the NRSMPA are some indigenous protected areas, some areas established to protect fish habitats, and some areas under cooperative management arrangements with industry. Biosphere Reserves, established under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program, contribute to biodiversity

conservation and core areas could be included in the NRSMPA as protected areas.

The commitment to the primary goal of biodiversity conservation means that MPAs within the NRSMPA provide a higher level of protection than is generally achieved in surrounding waters.

By considering the different forms of marine managed areas together, the valuable contributions to biodiversity conservation made by all these mechanisms can be recognised and validated. The other major advantage of this grouping is the potential for performance indicators for marine biodiversity to be developed and applied across the range of marine managed areas. The lack of detailed knowledge of the marine environment makes it difficult to quantify the benefits that different forms of area management may achieve. The establishment of good baseline data for all marine managed areas, and the development of performance indicators that relate to that data, will assist in improving the conservation of biodiversity and ecologically sustainable management of the marine environment.

While recognising the importance of other marine managed areas and other mechanisms for the conservation of Australia's marine biodiversity, these *Guidelines* relate specifically to the NRSMPA.

1.3 Goals of the NRSMPA

The primary goal of the NRSMPA is to establish and manage a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of MPAs to contribute to the long-term ecological viability of marine and estuarine systems, to maintain ecological processes and systems, and to protect Australia's biological diversity at all levels.

The following secondary goals are designed to be compatible with the primary goal:

- To promote the development of MPAs within the framework of integrated ecosystem management;
- To provide a formal management framework for a broad spectrum of human activities, including recreation, tourism, shipping and the use or extraction of resources, the impacts of which are compatible with the primary goal;
- To provide scientific reference sites;
- To provide for the special needs of rare, threatened or depleted species and threatened ecological communities;
- To provide for the conservation of special groups of organisms, eg species with complex habitat requirements or mobile or migratory species, or species vulnerable to disturbance which may depend on reservation for their conservation;
- To protect areas of high conservation value including those containing high species diversity, natural refugia for flora and fauna and centres of endemism;
- To provide for the recreational, aesthetic and cultural needs of indigenous and non-indigenous people.

1.4 Which MPAs are included in the NRSMPA?

Key characteristics define the MPAs that form the NRSMPA, as compared to the other marine managed areas. They are that the MPA:

- has been established especially for the conservation of biodiversity (consistent with the primary goal);
- is able to be classified into one or more of the six IUCN Protected Area Management Categories (see Appendix) reflecting the values and objectives of the MPA;
- must have secure status which can only be revoked by a Parliamentary process; and
- contributes to the representativeness, comprehensiveness or adequacy of the national system.

The MPA may incorporate areas ranging from highly protected areas to sustainable multiple use areas accommodating a wide spectrum of human activities. MPAs are declared under appropriate Commonwealth, State and Territory legislation. Broadly speaking, in Australian waters the States and Northern Territory have responsibility for the management of the waters three nautical miles seaward from the territorial sea baseline. For much of the Australian coast the territorial sea baseline equates to the low water mark but can be up to 60 nautical miles offshore in some areas. The Commonwealth generally is responsible from three nautical miles to 200 nautical miles or the limit of the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone.

It is the role of the relevant State, Territory or Commonwealth agency to determine the IUCN category (or categories) for MPAs in their jurisdiction. The Commonwealth will play a coordinating role, with the ANZECC Task Force on Marine Protected Areas, in ensuring consistent interpretation and application of IUCN categories at the stage that information is provided for inclusion in the Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Dataset (CAPAD). If there is uncertainty as to whether an MPA meets the requirements for inclusion in the NRSMPA, a similar process will apply.

1.5 Principles for Developing the NRSMPA

Development of the NRSMPA is based on the following principles:

Regional framework: *The Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia (IMCRA)* provides the national and regional planning framework for developing the NRSMPA, with ecosystems used as the basis for determining representativeness.

Comprehensiveness: The NRSMPA will include the full range of ecosystems recognised at an appropriate scale within and across each bioregion.

Adequacy: The NRSMPA will have the required level of reservation to ensure the ecological viability and integrity of populations, species and communities.

Representativeness: Those marine areas that are selected for inclusion in MPAs should reasonably reflect the biotic diversity of the marine ecosystems from which they derive.

Highly protected areas: The NRSMPA will aim to include some highly protected areas (IUCN Categories I and II) in each bioregion.

Precautionary principle: The absence of scientific certainty should not be a reason for postponing measures to establish MPAs to protect representative ecosystems. If an activity is assessed as having a low risk of causing serious or irreversible adverse impacts, or if there is insufficient information with which to assess fully and with certainty the magnitude and nature of impacts, decision making should proceed in a conservative and cautious manner.

Consultation: The processes of identification and selection of MPAs will include effective and high-quality public consultation with appropriate community and interest groups, to address current and future social, economic and cultural issues.

Indigenous involvement: The interests of Australia's indigenous people should be recognised and incorporated in decision making.

Decision making: Decision making processes should effectively integrate both long term and short term environmental, economic, social and equity considerations.

1.6 Outcomes of the NRSMPA

The goals of the NRSMPA relate primarily to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable and equitable management of human usage. However, the MPAs that make up the NRSMPA may also protect and manage many other important geological, archaeological, historical and cultural attributes. The outcomes listed apply to the national system of MPAs as a whole and not necessarily to each individual MPA within the system.

The outcomes of the NRSMPA will include:

- protection for Australia's marine biological diversity and marine ecological processes;
- protection and management of significant geological, archaeological, historical and cultural sites;
- recognition and protection of indigenous cultural and heritage values;
- management of certain marine areas and species by indigenous communities in accordance with traditional cultural practices and affiliations;
- a focus for research and training;
- monitoring the environmental effects of human activities, including the direct and indirect effects of development and adjacent land use practices;
- establishment of reference sites for scientific studies, including sites for long-term environmental monitoring;
- education of the community about the environment, attributes and appropriate uses of MPAs to develop a sense of stewardship and associated responsibility;
- protection of the natural aesthetic values of marine protected areas for the educational, recreational and spiritual benefit of the community;
- facilitation of the restoration of degraded marine ecosystems; and
- protection and management of habitats of significance to the life cycles of economically important species including propagation areas.

Part Two – Establishing the NRSMPA

2.1 The Development of the NRSMPA

The agreed approach to developing the NRSMPA emphasises the use of scientific data in the classification and identification of areas. It is recognised that information on a range of attributes for many areas is not complete. In these cases the best available information will be used.

The process for the establishment of the individual MPAs which comprise the NRSMPA is outlined below. Some of these steps may be carried out concurrently. Appropriate consultation with stakeholders will be carried out at various stages of the process. Broadly, an initial process of identification of candidate areas is carried out which is then followed by selection of MPA sites from these candidate areas.

- Step 1** Gather baseline data, including ecosystem mapping.
- Step 2** Identify a list of candidate areas within IMCRA regions to represent major ecosystems, using identification criteria (Table 1).
- Step 3** Identify threatening processes.
- Step 4** Identify gaps in the representation of ecosystems in existing MPAs within each IMCRA region.
- Step 5** Develop national and regional priorities.
- Step 6** Develop additional criteria for identification and selection of MPAs if required.
- Step 7** Select sites for MPAs from the candidate areas, using selection criteria (Table 1) and any other additional criteria developed in Step 6.
- Step 8** Assess feasibility of potential MPAs and negotiate new protected areas.
- Step 9** Establish MPAs and initiate management, including evaluation and review.

Developing national priorities

The development of national priorities for declaration of new MPAs will be based on the assessment of gaps in the comprehensiveness of the NRSMPA using IMCRA and CAPAD. The Commonwealth will coordinate the national gap analysis using IMCRA regions, and based on information provided by the jurisdictions. Following the gap analysis national priorities will be developed with cross-jurisdictional cooperation and agreement.

Developing regional priorities

The development of regional priorities is being predominantly carried out by State and Territory agencies for their waters and the Commonwealth for Commonwealth waters. This process will use gap analysis as well as analysis of values, threatening processes and other factors including socio-economic considerations and other criteria listed as selection criteria in Table 1.

As appropriate biodiversity information becomes available, agencies will identify conservation priorities and candidate areas within regions. Cross-jurisdictional cooperation will be required where IMCRA regions cross State, Territory and Commonwealth boundaries. Data exchange will be facilitated and coordinated by the Commonwealth.

The roles of the jurisdictions in the establishment of the NRSMPA

State, Northern Territory and Commonwealth Agencies

The roles of the Commonwealth, States and Northern Territory for the declaration of MPAs for waters under their jurisdiction, are outlined below.

For the NRSMPA each jurisdiction will:

- provide input to national gap analysis by conducting gap analyses based on MPA coverage within IMCRA regions;
- carry out regional gap analyses to develop regional priorities relating to MPA selection;
- contribute to the marine component of CAPAD;
- identify areas and select MPAs for addition to the NRSMPA;
- report on implementation of the NRSMPA to ANZECC, through the Task Force on Marine Protected Areas; and
- review and further develop IMCRA, as appropriate.

For each MPA each jurisdiction will:

- assess relative ecological and socio-economic values;
- assess threatening processes;
- identify management objectives and intentions;
- consult with adjacent and other relevant jurisdictions;
- consult with stakeholders, including consideration of industry, displacement and compensation issues;
- declare MPAs for addition to the NRSMPA;

- manage MPAs under their jurisdiction;
- determine IUCN protected area management categories for MPAs proposed for addition to the NRSMPA; and
- ensure proposals for declaration and management of MPAs are consistent with the full range of Australia's international obligations.

Additional Commonwealth actions

To facilitate the progress of the NRSMPA, the Commonwealth will also:

- contribute to funding to State and Territory agencies for projects leading to the declaration of MPAs;
- coordinate the future development of IMCRA;
- coordinate other technical products which are required to underpin the development of the NRSMPA, eg the marine component of CAPAD;
- assist with the development of national priorities through gap analysis;
- facilitate cross-jurisdictional cooperation and exchange of information;
- coordinate strategic planning for the NRSMPA including establishment guidelines; and
- ensure national consistency in the interpretation of the application of the IUCN protected area management categories to the NRSMPA, using the ANZECC Task Force on Marine Protected Areas in an advisory role.

2.2 Criteria for the Identification and Selection of Marine Protected Areas

Criteria for identification and selection of MPAs are presented in Table 1. The list is not exhaustive.

The criteria listed refer to the identification of candidate areas for the NRSMPA and selection of sites for MPAs. For the NRSMPA, biodiversity and environmental criteria are the primary criteria for the identification of candidate areas. Sound biodiversity and other baseline data are essential to ensure that decision making is underpinned by good science. Social, cultural and/or economic criteria are applied primarily in the selection of MPA sites from the candidate areas. In practice, jurisdictions may apply some of the selection criteria at an earlier stage in the identification phase, eg socio-economic considerations. Environmental criteria and social, cultural and economic criteria should be considered as layers in the decision making process, with criteria from each list able to be used at any stage in the processes of identification and selection as appropriate.

Vulnerability assessment is part of both the identification and selection processes. In the identification phase, vulnerability can be related to natural processes. In the selection phase vulnerability to human actions and threatening processes should be used to prioritise the selection of sites for MPAs.

The selection and declaration processes are carried out by State, Territory and Commonwealth agencies for their jurisdictions. Some cross-jurisdiction consultation will be required where proposed MPAs cross jurisdiction boundaries. Flexibility of application of the criteria will be required due to the variety of legislative and management frameworks within the States, Northern Territory and the Commonwealth, and the individual circumstances relating to specific sites. A potential MPA site may meet one or many of the listed criteria. Depending on the objectives for the site, one or more criteria may be considered to have greater 'weight' in the consideration process.

The criteria are generally derived from Kelleher and Kenchington (1992) and Thackway (1996).

2.3 Implementation and Evaluation of the Guidelines

These *Guidelines* will be implemented following agreement by State, Territory and Commonwealth agencies, and approval by ANZECC.

There will be an ongoing process of feedback from agencies and stakeholders which will be used to determine when a revision of the *Guidelines* is necessary. The revision process will be closely linked to the review process for the Strategic Plan of Action for the NRSMPA, a companion document to the *Guidelines*.

Table 1 Criteria to be used as a basis for the identification and selection of MPAs

IDENTIFICATION

Representativeness

Will the area:

- represent one or more ecosystems within an IMCRA bioregion, and to what degree;
- add to the representativeness of the NRSMPA, and to what degree.

Comprehensiveness

Does the area:

- add to the coverage of the full range of ecosystems recognised at an appropriate scale within and across each bioregion;
- add to the comprehensiveness of the NRSMPA.

Ecological importance

Does the area:

- contribute to the maintenance of essential ecological processes or life-support systems;
- contain habitat for rare or endangered species;
- preserve genetic diversity ie is diverse or abundant in species;
- contain areas on which species or other systems are dependent, eg contain nursery or juvenile areas or feeding, breeding or resting areas for migratory species;
- contain one or more areas which are a biologically functional, self-sustaining ecological unit.

International or national importance

- Is the area rated, or have the potential to be listed, on the world or a national heritage list or declared as a Biosphere Reserve or subject to an international or national conservation agreement.

Uniqueness

Does the area:

- contain unique species, populations, communities or ecosystems;
- contain unique or unusual geographic features.

Productivity

- Do the species, populations, or communities of the area have a high natural biological productivity.

Vulnerability assessment

- Are the ecosystems and/or communities vulnerable to natural processes.

Biogeographic importance

- Does the area capture important biogeographic qualities.

Naturalness

- How much has the area been protected from, or not been subjected to, human induced change.

Table 1 Criteria to be used as a basis for the identification and selection of MPAs**SELECTION***Economic interests*

Does the site:

- make an existing or potential contribution to economic value by virtue of its protection, eg for recreation or tourism, or as a refuge or nursery area, or source of supply for economically important species;
- have current or potential use for the extraction of or exploration for resources;
- have importance for shipping and/or trade;
- have usage by traditional users including commercial fishers;
- have value due to its contribution to local or regional employment and economic development.

Indigenous interests

Does the site:

- have traditional usage and/or current economic value;
- contain indigenous cultural values;
- have native title considerations.

Social interests

- Does the site have existing or potential value to the local, national or international communities because of its heritage, cultural, traditional aesthetic, educational, recreational, or economic values.

Scientific interests

- Does the site have existing or potential value for research or monitoring.

Practicality/feasibility

Does the site:

- have a degree of insulation from external destructive influences;
- have social and political acceptability, and a degree of community support;
- have access for recreation, tourism, education;
- have compatibility between an MPA declaration generally and existing uses;
- have relative ease of management, and compatibility with existing management regimes.

Vulnerability assessment

- Is the site vulnerable and susceptible to human induced changes and threatening processes.

Replication

- Will the site provide replication of ecosystems within the bioregion.

Part Three – Evaluating the NRSMPA**3.1 Evaluation**

The effectiveness of the NRSMPA will be monitored by the Commonwealth with assistance from the States and the Northern Territory. The processes for monitoring and reporting for the NRSMPA, including details of performance assessment, are presented in the Strategic Plan of Action for the NRSMPA. This is a collaborative process involving the Commonwealth, the States and the Northern Territory through ANZECC.

Glossary

<i>Adequacy</i>	The maintenance of the ecological viability and integrity of populations, species and communities.	<i>Ecosystem</i>	A dynamic complex of plant, animal and microorganism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit (Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992).
<i>ANZECC</i>	Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, a Ministerial Council representing all jurisdictions.	<i>Endemic</i>	Restricted to a specified region or site.
<i>Baseline</i>	The territorial sea baseline is the line from which the seaward limits of Australia's maritime zones are measured.	<i>Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)</i>	The area between the lines 12 nautical miles and 200 nautical miles seaward of the territorial sea baselines. In this area, Australia has the right to explore and exploit living and non-living resources, and the concomitant obligation to protect and conserve the marine environment.
<i>Biodiversity</i>	The variety of life forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form. It is usually considered at three levels: genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.	<i>IMCRA</i>	The Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia is an ecosystem based classification for marine and coastal environments. It provides ecologically based regionalisations at the meso-scale (100-1000 km) and at a provincial scale (greater than 1000s km).
<i>CAR reserve system</i>	A system of protected areas that addresses the comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness (CAR) of all its component ecosystems.		
<i>CAPAD</i>	Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Dataset	<i>Inshore</i>	The near coastal waters extending from the coastline and estuaries out to 3 n miles, which is the boundary of the State and Territory waters.
<i>Comprehensiveness</i>	Includes the full range of ecosystems recognised at an appropriate scale within and across each bioregion.	<i>IUCN</i>	The World Conservation Union (formerly known as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature).
<i>Condition</i>	The current state of ecosystems compared to what would be considered pristine.	<i>Naturalness</i>	The extent to which an area has been protected from, or has not been subjected to human induced change.
<i>Conservation</i>	The protection, maintenance, management, sustainable use, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment.		

<i>Protected Area, Marine Protected Area</i>	An area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means (IUCN 1994).	<i>Viability</i>	The likelihood of long-term survival of the example/population of the particular ecosystem or species under consideration.
		<i>Vulnerability</i>	The predisposition of an area to a threatening process.
<i>Replication</i>	The principle that if more than one sample of an ecosystem is reserved across its geographic range this will decrease the likelihood that chance events will cause the ecosystem to decline.		
<i>Representativeness</i>	Those marine areas that are selected for inclusion in reserves should reasonably reflect the biotic diversity of the marine ecosystems from which they derive.		
<i>State waters</i>	Australia's Offshore Constitutional Settlement established Commonwealth, State and Territory jurisdictions over marine areas. States generally have primary jurisdiction over marine areas to 3 n miles from the baseline. These waters are termed State waters for the purpose of this report.		
<i>Territorial sea</i>	The area of sea adjacent to Australia which extends beyond its land territory and internal waters. Australia's territorial sea extends 12 n miles from the baseline.		
<i>Threatened species and/or ecological communities</i>	A species or ecological community that is vulnerable or endangered.		
<i>Threatening processes</i>	The dominant limiting factors and constraints to the on-going conservation of biodiversity.		

Appendix

Summary of IUCN Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories

Category Ia *Strict Nature Reserve: Protected Area managed mainly for science*

Area of land and/or sea possessing some outstanding or representative ecosystems, geological or physiological features and/or species, available primarily for scientific research and/or environmental monitoring.

Category Ib *Wilderness Area: Protected Area managed mainly for wilderness protection*

Large area of unmodified or slightly modified land and/or sea, retaining its natural character and influence, without permanent or significant habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition.

Category II *National Park: Protected Area managed mainly for ecosystem conservation and recreation*

Natural area of land and/or sea, designated to (a) protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for this and future generations, (b) exclude exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation of the area and (c) provide a foundation for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities, all of which must be environmentally and culturally compatible.

Category III *Natural Monument: Protected Area managed for conservation of specific natural features*

Area containing one or more specific natural or natural/cultural feature which is of outstanding value because of its inherent rarity, representative or aesthetic qualities or cultural significance.

Category IV *Habitat/Species Management Area: Protected Area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention*

Area of land and/or sea subject to active intervention for management purposes so as to ensure the maintenance of habitats and/or to meet the requirements of specific species.

Category V *Protected Landscape/Seascape: Protected Areas managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation*

Area of land, with coast and seas as appropriate, where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant aesthetic, cultural and/or ecological value, and often with high biological diversity. Safeguarding the integrity of this traditional interaction is vital to the protection, maintenance and evolution of such an area.

Category VI *Managed Resource Protected Areas: Protected Area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems*

Area containing predominantly unmodified natural systems, managed to ensure long term protection and maintenance of biological diversity, while providing at the same time a sustainable flow of natural products and services to meet community needs.

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