

Australia

Parks Australia



Participants:

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MPA Program(s) Description or Highlights:

- Australia has one of the largest marine park systems in the world covering around 4.3 million square kilometres, or around 48% of Australian waters.
- Of this, Parks Australia manages 60 Australian Marine Parks that cover 43%, or around 3.8 million square kilometres, of Australia's marine environment.
- Australia has established over 1 million km² of new marine protected areas since March 2022.
- Following an extensive consultation and review process the Macquarie Island Marine Park was expanded on 1 July 2023 to almost triple its size. The marine park now covers 475,465 square kilometres, with 93% of this area in highly protected zoning (IUCN Ia and IUCN II) and 7% accessible to the continued operations of the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery.
- The combined area of the Indian Ocean Territories marine parks (99% of which is zoned as IUCN II) is the fifth largest highly protected marine area ever established.

Key Program Challenges/Priorities:

- Challenge: Management of a vast area of remote marine parks with constrained resources; cumulative impacts from a range of pressures, including climate change
- Priorities: Reviewing the South-east Network of Marine Parks management plan and developing new management plans for the Indian Ocean Territories Marine Parks; delivering a range of funding programs to help in management of Australian Marine Parks; and working in partnership with First Nations communities in the management of Australian Marine Parks and Sea Country.