

Australian Marine Parks in the Indian Ocean Territories

Proclamation proposal for the establishment of marine parks in Australia's
Indian Ocean Territories (Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands)

SUMMARY AND MAPS - COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS MARINE PARK

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PAPER OCTOBER 2021



Australian Government
Director of National Parks



**Australian
Marine Parks**

Australian Marine Parks

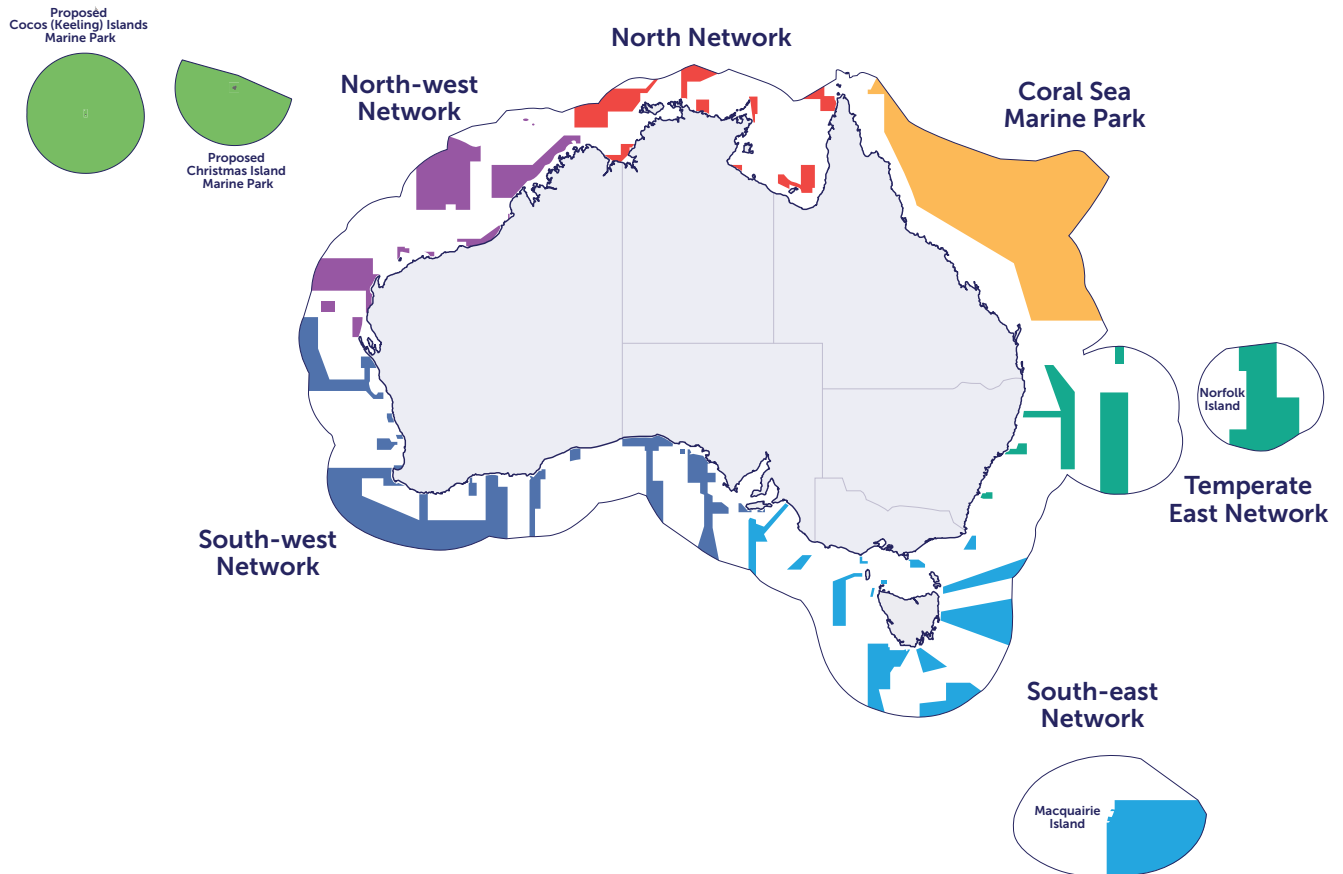


Image 1 – Existing Australian Marine Parks and proposed IOT marine parks

Have your say

This document is a summary of the Proclamation proposal for the establishment of marine parks in Australia's Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) (Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands).

It provides a description and maps of the design (location, area and zoning) of the proposed Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park.

The Director of National Parks is inviting comments from all interested stakeholders and members of the public on the proclamation proposal - parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/pub/iot/AMP-Proclamation-Proposal-IOT.pdf

To have your say:

Email your comments to IOTmarineparksproclamation@environment.gov.au

Alternatively, comments can be mailed to:

IOT Marine Parks Proclamation Proposal
Parks Australia
PO Box 385
Kingston, TAS 7050

Comments must be sent by Monday 6 December 2021.

All comments will be considered in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act before IOT marine parks can be proclaimed. Comments may be published—for full details and privacy information, please review the full proclamation proposal.

Australian Marine Parks

The Australian Government has established a network of 58 Australian Marine Parks in the Commonwealth marine area, in addition to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve. Marine parks protect seafloor environments like reefs; seagrass; seamounts; and canyons, and they can also support fishing and other marine activities such as tourism, and diving.

Australian Marine Parks are located in all of the marine bioregions that surround mainland Australia and the Territory of Norfolk Island.

With the exception of the very small marine areas included as part of the existing Christmas Island National Park and Pulu Keeling National Park, the marine regions of Australia's Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) are not yet included within Australia's marine park network.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park

Purpose

The purpose of the proposed Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park is to provide for:

- (a) The protection and conservation of biodiversity and other natural, cultural and heritage values
- (b) Ecologically sustainable use that supports positive social and economic outcomes.

Zoning

(a) Green zones – National Park Zone

To be managed to protect and conserve biodiversity, ecosystems, habitats and native species in as natural a state as possible. This zone type is intended to allow only non-

extractive activities, such as wildlife watching, diving, snorkelling and research. Fishing and mining are intended to be prohibited.

(b) Yellow zones – Habitat Protection Zone

To be managed to ensure maintenance of the habitat conditions necessary to protect significant species, groups of species, biotic communities or physical features of the environment. Scientific research, environmental monitoring and community engagement are intended to be priority management activities.

Activities that generate benefits for local communities and other marine park users, such as recreational fishing, other recreational uses, charter fishing, tourism and aquaculture are intended to be allowed. Some forms of commercial fishing are intended to be allowed. Mining is intended to be prohibited.



GREEN ZONES
protect important locations like
breeding and feeding areas.
Here you can watch wildlife, snorkel,
dive, and do research.

YELLOW ZONES

protect sea floor habitats like reefs and seamounts.

Watch wildlife, snorkel, dive, do research,
and fish, but don't disturb the seafloor.



Table 1 - Overview of proposed zoning scheme for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park

Activity	Habitat Protection (IOT) Zone (IUCN Category IV)	National Park Zone (IUCN Category II)
Recreational and subsistence fishing (including anchoring)	✓ A	X
General use, access and waste management	✓	✓
Commercial shipping	✓ B	✓ B
Commercial fishing	✓ C	X B
Aquaculture	✓ C	X B
Commercial media	✓ C	✓ C
Commercial tourism (e.g. dive/snorkel tours, charter fishing)	✓ C	✓ C
Mining (e.g oil and gas extraction)	X	X
Structures and works	✓ C	✓ C
Research and monitoring	✓ C	✓ C
National Security and emergency response	✓	✓

✓ Activity is allowed in accordance with the prescriptions of a management plan without the need of a permit, class approval or activity licence or lease issued by the Director of National Parks. The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) also applies with respect to ship generated pollution from ships (i.e. waste management).

X Activity is not allowed

A Recreational fishing is to be in accordance with local fishing rules, if applicable

B Anchoring is not allowed except in anchoring areas determined under r.12.56 of the EPBC Regulations

C Activity is allowed, subject to assessment, in accordance with a permit, class approval or activity licence or lease issued by the Director of National Parks (DNP). Class approvals are a general authorisation that allows a commercial activity to continue (e.g. commercial fishing) under existing (non-marine park) approvals, without separate DNP approval or fees.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park design

The proposed Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park comprises a total area of 467,054 square kilometres and extends generally from the islands' shoreline to the limit of Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) approximately 200 nautical miles from shore. The marine park consists of two zone types, mostly corresponding to the inshore and offshore waters.

The inshore zone of the marine park forms a rectangle around the southern atoll and North Keeling Island. It extends approximately three nautical miles from the shoreline of the southern atoll (to the south, east and west), to three nautical miles north of North Keeling Island (approximately 28 kilometres to the north). The marine park adjoins the existing marine boundary of Pulu Keeling National Park.

Almost all of this area is zoned a Habitat Protection Zone (yellow zone) (IUCN category IV). There are also two small National Park Zones (green zones)

(IUCN category II): one adjacent to the south-east end of Direction Island (covering the area known as the Rip); and one at Trannies Beach, located in the north-west of West Island. Most of the port zone is excluded from the marine park, except for a section of the port in the north-west of the southern atoll lagoon.

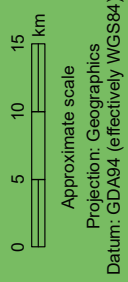
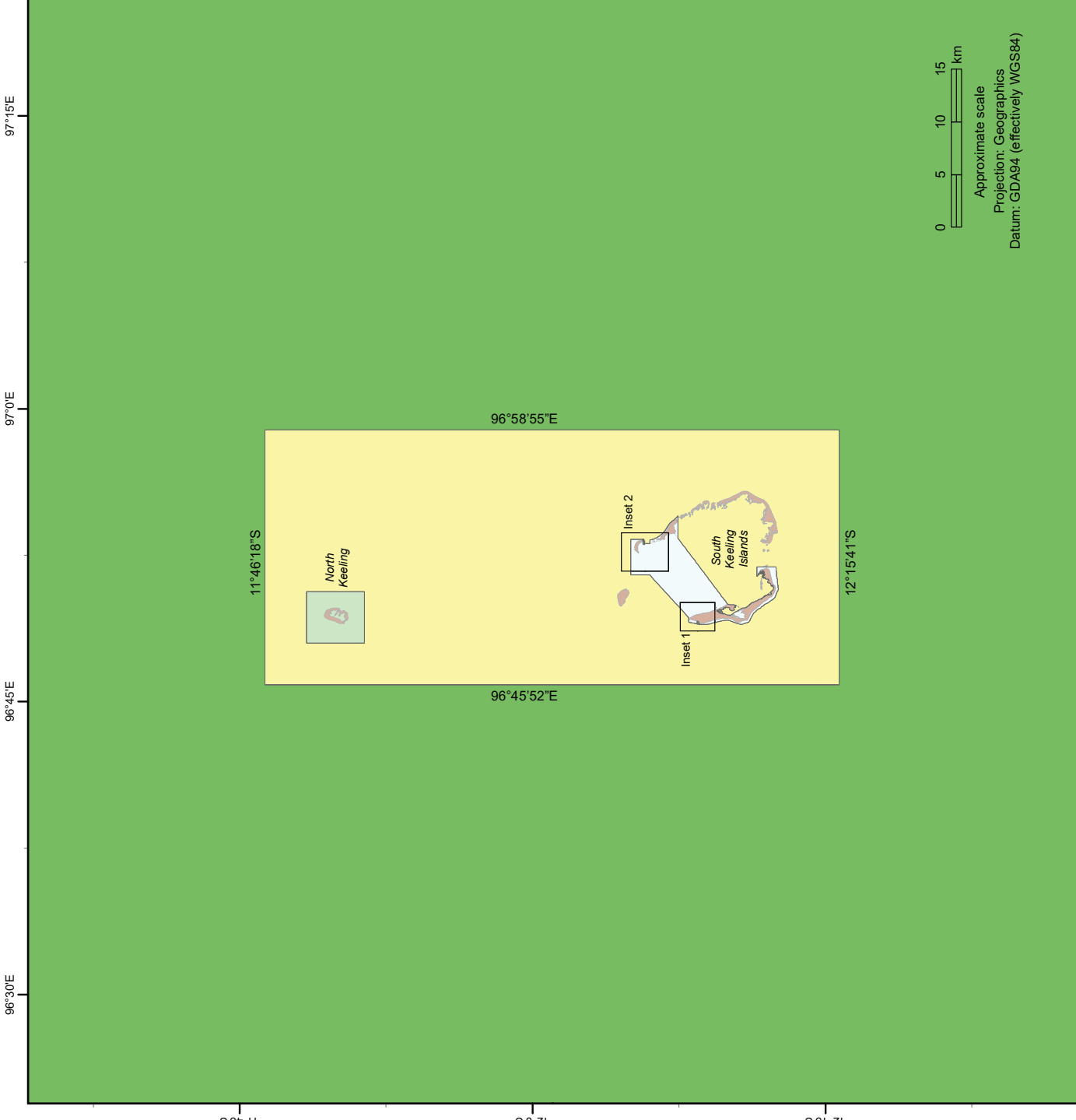
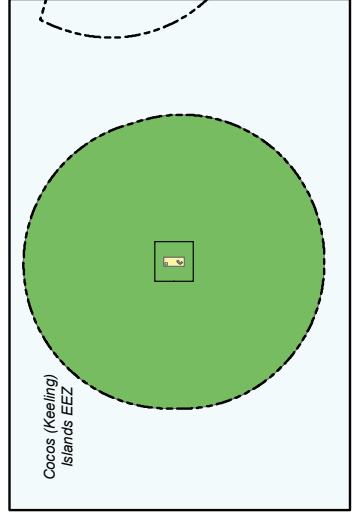
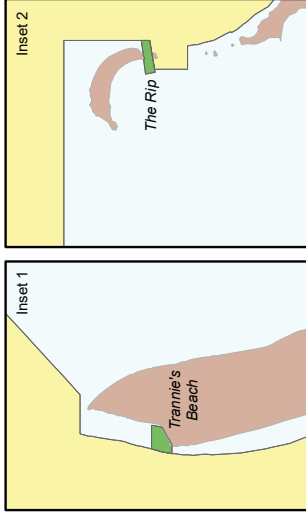
Other inshore areas excluded from the marine park are the waters adjacent to Home Island and Direction Island (excluding the Rip area); West Island's shallow reef platform from the seaward/ outer reef edge to high water mark (excluding Trannies Beach); and a small portion of the lagoon to the north of the runway on West Island. The waters around all the remaining islands are included in the marine park to high water mark.

The marine park includes all offshore waters, which extend from three nautical miles from Cocos (Keeling) Islands' shoreline to the EEZ. All of this area is zoned as a National Park Zone (green zone) (IUCN category II).

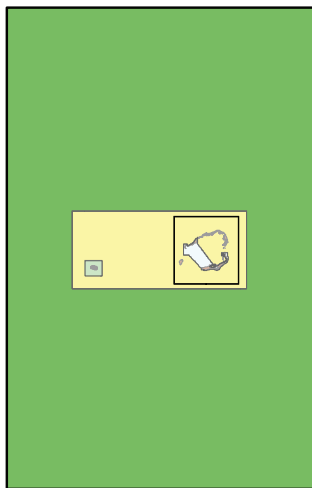
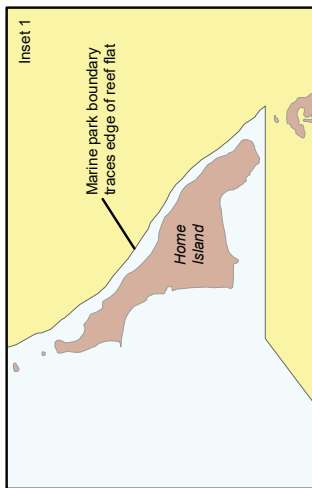
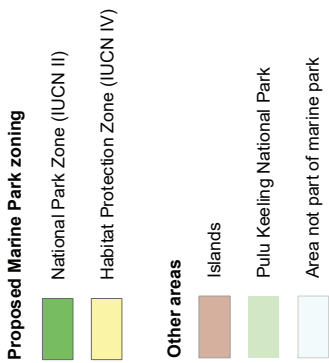
Proposed Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park: Proclamation Proposal October 2021

- Proposed Marine Park zoning**
- National Park Zone (IUCN II)
 - Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)
- Other areas**
- Islands
 - Pulu Keeling National Park marine zone
 - Area not part of marine park

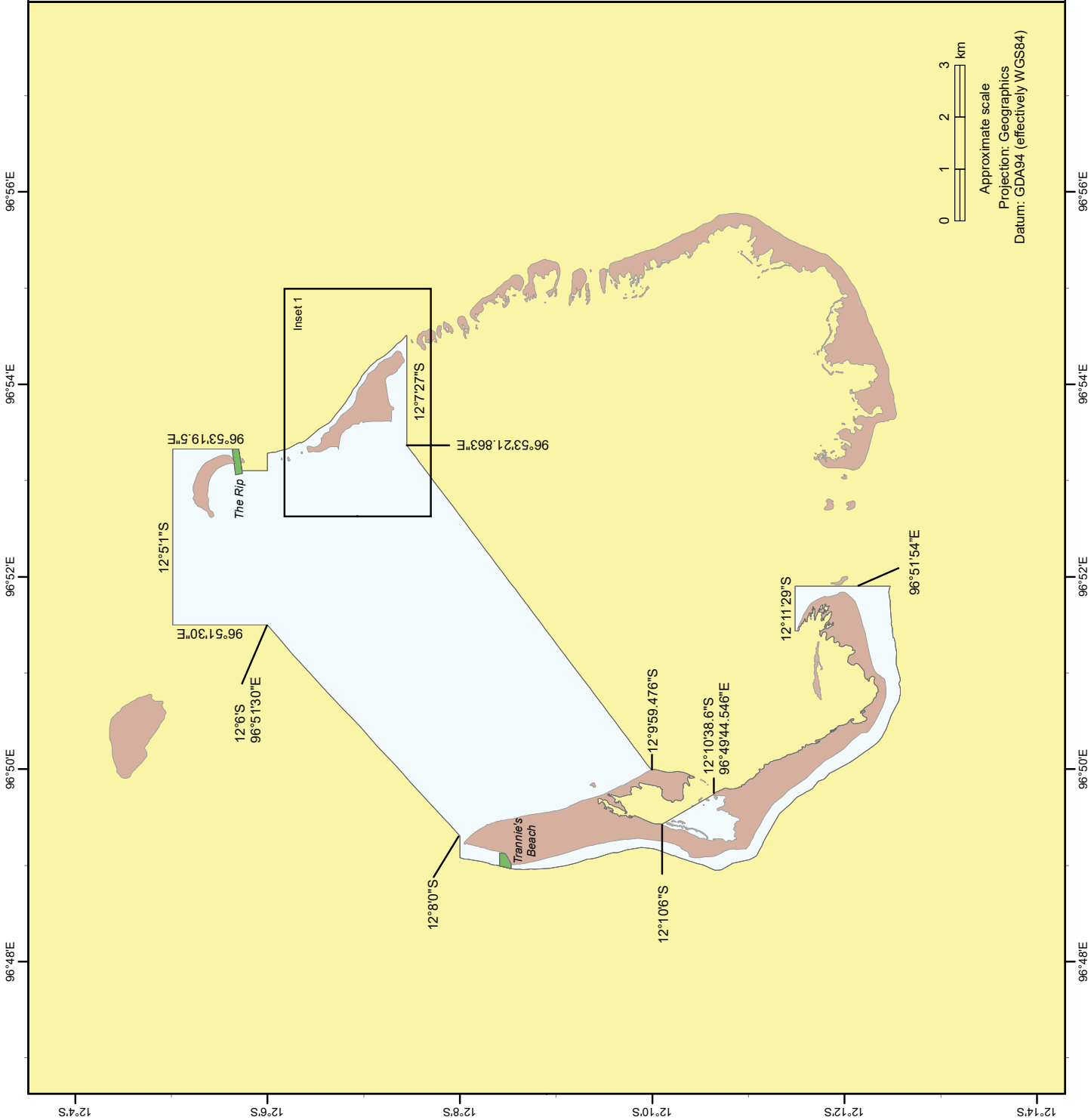
Total area of proposed MPA = 467,054 sq km



Proposed Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park: Proclamation Proposal October 2021



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Finalising the parks and declaration

