

UPSC Civil Services Examination

UPSC Notes [GS-I]

Topic: Marine Protected Areas in India [Geography Notes for UPSC]

India's coastline stretches for 8118 km, covering an exclusive economic zone 2.02 million square kilometres of area. The continental shelf of India extends to 372,424 square km across 9 states and 7 union territories. As one of the 17 mega-biodiverse countries of the world, it faces unique challenges in protecting its biodiversity.

Marine Protected Areas in India are the area defined under IUCN Guidelines. They limit anthropogenic activities and exploitation of resources in these areas. The definition of Protected Area provided by IUCN has been broadly accepted across the world and is an important topic for the [UPSC Geography Syllabus](#) and topics related to the Environment.

List of Marine Protected Areas

The following is the list of marine protected areas in or near the mainland of India:

State/ UT's	Name of Marine Protected Area	Category
Maharashtra	Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary	Marine Sanctuary
West Bengal	West Sundarbans	Marine Sanctuary
Kerala	Kadalundi-Vallikkunnu Community Reserve	Community Reserve
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Dadra & Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary	Marine Sanctuary
Odisha	Bhitarkanika	Marine National Park
Odisha	Gahirmatha	Marine Sanctuary
Gujarat	Gulf of Kachchh	Marine National Park
Daman & Diu	Fudam	Marine Sanctuary
Andhra Pradesh	Krishna	Marine Sanctuary
Goa	Chorao Island	Marine Sanctuary

Maharashtra	Malvan Marine Wildlife Sanctuary	Marine Sanctuary
Odisha	Chilika (Nalabana)	Marine Sanctuary
Odisha	Balukhand Konark	Marine Sanctuary
West Bengal	Sundarbans	Marine National Park
Gujarat	Khijadia	Marine Sanctuary
Andhra Pradesh/Tamil Nadu	Pulicat Lake	Marine Sanctuary
Tamil Nadu	Gulf of Mannar	Marine National Park
Andhra Pradesh	Coringa	Marine Sanctuary
West Bengal	Haliday Island	Marine Sanctuary
West Bengal	Sajnakhali	Marine Sanctuary
West Bengal	Lothian Island	Marine Sanctuary
Odisha	Bhitarkanika	Marine Sanctuary
Tamil Nadu	Point Calimere	Marine Sanctuary

Marine Sanctuaries and Protected Areas in Island Territories of India

The following table lists the protected areas and sanctuaries located on the Islands of India:

Islands	Name of Marine Protected Areas	Category
Lakshadweep	Pitti	Marine Sanctuary
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Rani Jhansi	Marine National Park
	Kwangtung Island	Marine Sanctuary
	South Button Island	Marine National Park
	North Button Island	Marine National Park
	Mount Harriet	Marine National Park

	Middle Button Island	Marine National Park
	Saddle Peak	Marine National Park
	Mahatma Gandhi Marine	Marine National Park
	Arial Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Bamboo Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Barren Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Batti Malv Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Belle Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Bennett Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Bingham Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Blister Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Bluff Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Bondville Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Brush Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Buchanan Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Campbell Bay	Marine National Park
	Channel Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Cinque Islands	Marine Sanctuary
	Clyde Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Cone Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Curlew (B.P.) Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Curlew Island	Marine Sanctuary

Defence Island	Marine Sanctuary
Dot Island	Marine Sanctuary
Dotterel Island	Marine Sanctuary
Duncan Island	Marine Sanctuary
East Island	Marine Sanctuary
East Of Inglis Island	Marine Sanctuary
Egg Island	Marine Sanctuary
Elat Island	Marine Sanctuary
Entrance Island	Marine Sanctuary
Galathea National Park	Marine National Park
Gander Island	Marine Sanctuary
Girjan Island	Marine Sanctuary
Goose Island	Marine Sanctuary
Hump Island	Marine Sanctuary
Interview Island	Marine Sanctuary
James Island	Marine Sanctuary
Jungle Island	Marine Sanctuary
Kyd Island	Marine Sanctuary
Landfall Island	Marine Sanctuary
Latouche Island	Marine Sanctuary
Lohabarrack	Marine Sanctuary
Mangrove Island	Marine Sanctuary

	Mask Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Mayo Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Megapode Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Montgomery Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Narcondam Island	Marine Sanctuary
	North Brother Island	Marine Sanctuary
	North Island	Marine Sanctuary
	North Reef Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Oliver Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Orchid Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Ox Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Oyster Island-I	Marine Sanctuary
	Oyster Island-II	Marine Sanctuary
	Paget Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Parkinson Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Passage Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Patric Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Peacock Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Pitman Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Point Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Potanma Islands	Marine Sanctuary
	Ranger Island	Marine Sanctuary

	Reef Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Roper Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Ross Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Rowe Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Sandy Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Sea Serpent Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Shark Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Shearwater Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Sir Hugh Rose Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Sisters Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Snake Island-I	Marine Sanctuary
	Snake Island-II	Marine Sanctuary
	South Brother Island	Marine Sanctuary
	South Reef Island	Marine Sanctuary
	South Sentinel Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Spike Island-I	Marine Sanctuary
	Spike Island-II	Marine Sanctuary
	Stoat Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Surat Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Swamp Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Table (Dalgarno) Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Table (Excelsior) Island	Marine Sanctuary

	Talbagicha Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Temple Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Tillongchang Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Tree Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Trilby Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Tuft Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Turtle Islands	Marine Sanctuary
	West Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Wharf Island	Marine Sanctuary
	White Cliff Island	Marine Sanctuary
	Galathea Bay	Marine Sanctuary
	Cuthbert Bay	Marine Sanctuary

A Marine Protected Area is a zone in the ocean or littoral area where anthropogenic activities are regulated more strictly than the surrounding waters. These places are given special protections for marine wildlife by the national, regional, state and local authorities.

India's biodiversity protection programmes have been highly successful with 600 protected areas across 161,221 sq.km. Protected areas account for 4.9% of the country's total geographical area. Recently, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has proposed to create a network of marine protected areas. In this scenario, an IAS aspirant should know what are marine protected areas and major marine protected areas in India.