



Theme 3

Habitat Protection, Restoration and Management

**WORKSHOP 1:
NETWORKING OF MARINE
PROTECTED AREAS: BENEFITS,
GOOD PRACTICES, STANDARDS
AND NEXT STEPS**

24–25 November 2009



The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity



The Philippines' Department of Environment and
Natural Resources – Protected Areas and
Wildlife Bureau



The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention

Chair: Dr. Rodrigo U. Fuentes
Executive Director
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

Co-Chair: Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim
Director, Parks and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB)
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Philippines

The East Asian Seas Congress 2009

**“Partnerships at Work: Local Implementation
and Good Practices”**

Manila, Philippines

23–27 November 2009



The East Asian Seas Congress 2009
“Partnerships at Work: Local Implementation and Good Practices”
Manila, Philippines, 23-27 November 2009

Theme 3: Habitat Protection, Restoration and Management
**Workshop 1: Networking of Marine Protected Areas: Benefits, Good Practices,
Standards and Next Steps**

24-25 November 2009

Co-Convening Agencies:

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity,
Philippines’ Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Protected Areas and
Wildlife Bureau, and
the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention

Chair:

Dr. Rodrigo U. Fuentes, Executive Director, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity

Co-Chair:

Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim, Director, Parks and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB),
Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The 3rd East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress, co-organized by the Government of the Philippines and the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), was held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila, Philippines from 23 to 27 November 2009. Carrying the theme “*Partnerships at Work: Local Implementation and Good Practices*,” the EAS Congress 2009 aimed to (a) highlight actions and impacts contributing to sustainable coastal development, and (b) strengthen partnerships for the sustainable development of the seas of East Asia.
- 1.2 The EAS Congress 2009 featured the Third Ministerial Forum, the International Conference on Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Development, the annual meeting of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG), an Exhibition, the Second EAS Youth Forum, and other activities. Nearly 1,500 stakeholders — policymakers, resource and economic managers, business professionals, scientists, members of the academe, local and international nongovernmental organization (NGOs), youth and community representatives, and other members of civil society from within and outside the East Asian Seas region — participated in the Congress.
- 1.3 Six major themes comprised the International Conference: (a) Coastal and Ocean Governance; (b) Natural and Man-made Hazard Prevention and Management; (c) Habitat

Protection, Restoration and Management; (d) Water Use and Supply Management; (e) Food Security and Livelihood Management; and (f) Pollution Reduction and Waste Management. The Workshop on Networking of Marine Protected Areas: Benefits, Good Practices, Standards and Next Steps was one of the events within the theme on Habitat Protection, Restoration and Management. The workshop was co-convened by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, and PEMSEA.

1.4 In view of the many initiatives to network MPAs in the region, the workshop discussed options for cooperation among various initiatives, strategies, action plans, and working partnerships in MPA networking that have been developed or are being developed in the region, for example the ASEAN Marine Protected Area and Heritage Park initiatives, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), and the South China Sea Fisheries Refugia Initiative. Government personnel from Indonesia, the Philippines, the People's Republic of China, and Viet Nam, as well as from the ASEAN, CTI, ICRI, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the MPA Learning Partnership, and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), among others, participated in the workshop (*Annex 1*).

1.5 Dr. Rodrigo U. Fuentes, Executive Director of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, and Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim, Director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the DENR, co-chaired the workshop. Dr. Fuentes introduced the workshop objectives.

1.6 The objectives of the workshop were to: (1) highlight the benefits of managing marine protected areas (MPAs) as a network; (2) showcase good practices and lessons learned in networking of MPAs; and (3) develop recommendations for partnership/collaborative efforts in managing MPA networks.

1.7 To set the stage for the workshop, Dr. Lim reviewed the output of the EAS Congress 2006 workshop on Management Effectiveness of MPAs (*Box 3 from James, et al., 2007; and Tropical Coasts 14(1):24*):

- Identification of clear objectives for MPAs is required to underpin management.
- A structured approach to information and research leads to improved and more cost-effective outcomes.
- There are many models and approaches for MPAs – a bottom-up approach has significant benefits in the context of the region.
- 'No take' is an important concept for resource habitat management and is an objective that can be effectively achieved in a variety of ways.
- National laws on MPAs must be supported by local legislation to strengthen their planning, development, and implementation.
- Ensure sustainability of MPAs from the threat of changes in local executives of LGUs and termination of support to MPA.
- MPAs cannot solve everything – they are part of a coordinated approach to management.

She then outlined the planned flow of the current workshop (*Annex 2*).

2. Part 1: Benefits of Managing MPAs as a Network

- 2.1 Dr. Nicolas Pilcher of the Marine Research Foundation said his review of marine turtle biological information from scientific research and local knowledge indicated that conservation is currently limited to certain aspects of the turtle lifecycle with inadequate protection, for example, of a migration bottleneck in the northern tip of Sabah. He emphasized the importance and demonstrated the use of biological information in designing a proposed network of marine protected areas for marine turtle conservation that takes into account the entire turtle lifecycle and spans political jurisdictions in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas.
- 2.2 Dr. Porfirio Aliño of the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute discussed the Environmental Governance Project 2's (Philippines) observations of improved governance (e.g., transparency/communication, enforcement/accountability, use of information), scope of management coverage (including transboundary issues), capacities, enforcement and monitoring efficiency, and access to financing which resulted from synergies within local government networks in the Camotes Sea and Illana Bay.
- 2.3 Mr. Stuart Green of the Conservation and Community Investment Forum (CCIF) emphasized the need to strengthen the financial side of the planning and managing of MPAs. He encouraged managers to move away from "financing" being an afterthought once external fund sources run low. Although it is common to see 25-year management plans (heavy on science and management), financial budgets rarely look beyond a year or two. He outlined a computational model developed by CCIF, which has been used around the world by managers of both inland and marine protected areas to review their costs and revenues to better guide management. Better financial management will lead managers towards more effective MPAs, less reliant on outside sources and scales of economy savings that should encourage MPAs to scale up into networks.

3. Part 2: Good Practices in Developing Networks of MPAs

- 3.1 Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi of the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment reminded the participants of the fisheries, economic, and risk-reducing benefits of protecting coastal habitats, as well as the need for improved protection. He emphasized the basis of effective management at the local level while at the same time the sharing of lessons and addressing of transboundary issues that an ASEAN network of MPAs can facilitate. He suggested Gap Analyses (as initiated by ASEAN), analysis of successful experiences based upon providing livelihood benefits to poor communities, and application of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) to MPA management as the priority steps to take.
- 3.2 Dr. Anuwat Nateewathana of Thailand's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment pointed out that the broad-ranging behavior of migratory species, such as marine turtles, indicates a need to link information, experiences, financing and local communities across large marine ecosystems (LMEs) and projects towards a broader East Asian Seas network.
- 3.3 Ms. Ahsanal Kasasiah of Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries shared the Indonesian experience in scaling up its marine protected areas to cover 13.5 million hectares. She further discussed the need to strengthen management and collaboration at each scale from local, subnational, national, and international. She emphasized the need to address local issues, such as small-scale fisheries, while contributing to national and global objectives. Ms. Kasasiah concluded that an agreed set of standards could help to improve the effectiveness of MPA management across the region.

- 3.4 Dr. Wang Bin of the People's Republic of China's State Oceanic Administration described the growth of MPAs in China, the dominance of 'no-take' MPAs, the integration of MPAs into overall marine functional zoning, and the greater effectiveness of the more significant national MPAs relative to local MPAs due, for example, to lower funding for the latter. He identified some difficulties such as a lack of linkages between use and conservation. Developing a national network in China is still limited by inadequate scientific information, lack of coverage of many ecological processes by the current MPA network, and institutional and geographic (including communication) divisions. Other difficulties include: limited community involvement; lack of human and financial resources; inadequate coordination among national process; and the need for stronger linkage between freshwater and marine management.
- 3.5 Ms. Cheryl Kaur of the Maritime Institute of Malaysia described the differences in emphasis among the management approaches under which the various MPAs have been established in Malaysia (including marine parks in Peninsular Malaysia, parks in East Malaysia, and international transboundary MPA management — taking the Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area as an example). She also discussed the need to develop, and to make operational, collaboration based upon sound science and management needs.
- 3.6 Dr. Chu Manh Trinh of Viet Nam's Cu Lao Cham Protected Area Authority described the experience of multistakeholder co-management of the Cu Lao Cham MPA. He went on to discuss the mutual benefits that could accrue to both MPA management and ICM complementing each other. He reviewed the application of the practice of co-management with emphasis on sustainable livelihoods (e.g., eco-tourism) to the broader Vu Gia-Thu Bon River Basin Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Nui Thanh ICM program currently being developed.
- 3.7 Ms. Atjima Meepring of the Thailand Environment Institute shared her views on the importance of both local community participation and local government support, as well as the sharing of lessons across five sites in Thailand. She stressed that networking should not lose sight on getting work done at the local level for individual MPAs and sites.

4. Discussion on Parts 1 and 2

4.1 The workshop discussions included the following key points:

- The existing evidence supporting fisheries and other benefits of MPAs provides sound basis for local financing for MPAs, although demonstrating biophysical benefits of MPAs and MPA networks (such as for fisheries) and the research information needed to design optimal MPA networks is costly (and more difficult than for sea turtles). Such research is being conducted, for example, in the Verde Passage, along the Cagayan Ridge, and in Central Visayas in the Philippines.
- Co-management improves sustainability of MPA management. Financing can also be leveraged from the private sector.
- Flagship species such as turtles help provide focus, but there is a consensus that broader ecosystem management is the objective.
- Social support networks have been developed for MPA managers in the Philippines and Viet Nam but only a few MPA networks are developed enough to have network management plans. Current MPA networks mainly support the sharing of experiences, good practices, and lessons learned. The Sea Turtle Corridor in the Sulu-Sulawesi

Seascape is the only true regional ecological network of MPAs, although it is focused primarily on sea turtle conservation.

5. Part 3. Common Goals, Targets and Standards for Partnership and Collaboration

5.1 Dr. Llewellyn Young of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat presented the objectives and approaches of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, as well as the results of a survey of the Ramsar National Focal Points from Ramsar Convention Parties in the PEMSEA partnership. Respondents shared that being a member of the Ramsar network has helped their coastal and marine protected areas to increase networking, awareness, visitors, protection, capacity and funding in various degrees. Further assistance was sought on capacity development, technical support, information exchange, and funding opportunities. The replies that came from site managers showed that more communication is needed between the Ramsar Secretariat and the site level, and the need to raise awareness of the local community about the importance of the site and its wise use, and the need for their participation in the management and conservation of the site and its resources. If not, then it may lead to problems at the site.

5.2 Dr. Filiberto Pollisco, Jr. of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity reminded the audience of the low coverage and effectiveness of the region's MPAs and provided a sampling of past regional MPA initiatives. He reported progress in several countries, like Malaysia and the Philippines, that has been made through ACB's initiative to identify representation, ecological, and management gaps in protected areas systems. He pointed out the need for more efficient MPA information systems in each country.

5.3 Dr. Kohei Hibino of the Japan Wildlife Research Center emphasized the importance of MPA management effectiveness, the availability of effectiveness assessment systems, and the low level of use of effectiveness assessment systems by most countries in the region due to limited capacity. Lessons learned from the International Coral Reef Initiative suggest that East Asia's ongoing support for the development of effectiveness assessment systems: (a) must focus on helping individual MPAs improve their respective management capabilities; and (b) should be flexible enough to ensure relevance at the site level while still being able to provide summaries at higher levels.

6. Panel Discussion and Open Forum

6.1 Various panel discussants (Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi, ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment; Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center; Dr. Alan T. White, The Nature Conservancy; Dr. Gabriel Antonius Wagey, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia; and Dr. Hugh Kirkman, Marine Science and Ecology, Australia) and participants highlighted the following needs of MPA networks:

- a common definition and better understanding of "MPA network" especially related to the differences between an "ecological" and "social or learning" network of MPAs;
- communication and education to help stakeholders understand that MPAs aim to improve human well-being (including quantification of the benefits of MPAs) and the necessity of transboundary/regional MPA networks for some goals;
- networks of MPAs on the national level;
- clear objectives for any MPA network;
- benefits of MPA networks to local MPA sites to be greater than the cost to local sites;

- differentiation between ecological/conservation network goals, fisheries/food security goals, and social/learning network goals;
- information on the actual levels of MPA protection, governance and financial management mechanisms, socioeconomic factors, and biophysical results (monitoring information network) and usage of this information for the network to learn good MPA design and practices;
- CBD targets on protected areas effectively managed as a previously agreed upon goal;
- use of networks to scale up more effectively to achieve CBD targets;
- both national networks and a regional network that would link the national networks and provide a conduit to other regional networks;
- the potential for MPA networks to help individual MPAs reduce redundancy through streamlining, help develop capacity, help advance policy, and help improve financial sustainability;
- Networking of MPAs at local scales can be useful for improved governance, efficiency and to address transboundary issues. Examples include MPAs in the Philippines: Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor in Batangas; Illana Bay in Mindanao; and Camotes Sea in Cebu; and
- The potential for MPA networks to increase resiliency including to climate change impacts.

6.2 The workshop discussed possible approaches to networking MPAs where objectives can be agreed upon including:

- Establish a sound scientific basis to design a resilient ecological MPA network. Migration patterns of species will have to be considered in the context of the distribution of their habitats (e.g., migratory waterbirds and wetlands in the case of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Network). Current approaches include moving to network MPAs within the tri-national sea turtle corridor of the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion as per Nicolas Pilcher's presentation.
- know existing resources and capacities;
- build upon existing MPAs towards better MPA sizes and connectivity;
- streamline of existing networks rather than create new networks;
- clarify the roles of international, national and local partners;
- provide policy support for any regional MPA network;
- keep the primary focus on the local MPA level and local needs;
- monitor and communicate at the scale being managed; and
- mainstream MPAs within ICM given that MPAs cannot exist in isolation without management of externalities.

It was noted that the IUCN/WCPA (2008) publication "Establishing resilient MPA networks – Making it happen" has a simple but robust set of guidelines for designing ecological networks of MPAs.

6.3 Sharing of experiences, lessons and scientific information through learning networks was the recommended practical and immediate action. Ecological networks can then develop from these as needed.

6.4 The workshop chairpersons facilitated confirmation of the following conclusions:

- Well-managed marine protected areas can deliver local financial, economic and social benefits to fisheries and other economic use sectors, especially to lower income groups, and to hazard management.
- There has been notable progress in managing some individual MPAs, but more MPAs and a much broader area still need to be protected and managed (including enforced and financed) effectively.
- MPA networks help improve good governance (e.g., transparency/communication, enforcement/accountability, use of information), management coverage and efficiency, and can help address transboundary issues.
- MPA networks must have very clear objectives, contributions to individual MPAs, and must be cost-effective.
- Biological information can help design an effective and efficient network of MPAs.
- Management and monitoring standards and guidelines can help improve management effectiveness.

6.5 The workshop chairpersons facilitated confirmation of the following recommendations:

- Economic sectors of local communities and governments should contribute resources to manage MPAs and not overly rely on external donors.
- Improve (individual) MPA management (including enforcement and financing) effectiveness along with increases in coverage and MPA networking.
- Networks should have a clear objective, value/contribution and should improve efficiency. Networks may be useful for pulling together political and financial commitment and contributions. Networks with similar activities can complement and streamline activities with each other. Develop a regional system (network) of MPAs (e.g., Regional Network of ASEAN MPAs).
- Strengthen collaboration across sectors and across geographic locations through ICM. Manage MPAs within a context of sustainable development (e.g., China's MPA system which is embedded in its marine functional zoning system).
- Improve information and monitoring including gap analysis but act on available information. Strengthen the use of science and practical guidelines to drive management. Based on biological information, expand managed sites as needed to help secure critical habitats.
- Build upon existing available MPA network cases shared through existing channels (e.g., Sulu-Sulawesi cases published in *Tropical Coasts* magazine, peer reviewed publications and the Learning Partnership for MPA Networks [e.g., TNC, et al. 2008]). Learning networks can later lead to the development of ecological networks as needed and possible.

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Annex 2. Workshop Program

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY/ PRESENTATION	
November 24 1030 – 1050	Welcome, Introduction and Review of relevant recommendations from the past Congress	<p>Dr. Rodrigo U. Fuentes, Executive Director ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity</p> <p>Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim Director Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (Philippines)</p>
Part 1: Benefits of managing MPAs as a network		
1050 – 1150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Network of Protected Areas to Safeguard Marine Turtles in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape • MPA Networking in the Philippines: Finding Synergy Despite Adversity • A Quick Analysis of MPA Financing and A Financial Management Framework for MPA Networks 	<p>Dr. Nicolas J. Pilcher Marine Research Foundation (Malaysia)</p> <p>Dr. Porfirio M. Alino Environmental Governance Project 2 (Philippines)</p> <p>Mr. John D. Claussen and Mr. Stuart J. Green Conservation and Community Investment Forum (Indonesia)</p>
1150 – 1230	Open Forum	
1230 – 1400	Lunch	
Part 2. Good practices in developing networks of MPAs		
1400 – 1530	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of good practices in developing networks of MPAs in the ASEAN • Marine Protected Areas Networks: A Lesson Learned from Sea Turtle Conservation Projects in ASEAN Region • Nested MPA Networks in Indonesia • A MPA network approach in China: Status and Challenges 	<p>Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (Viet Nam)</p> <p>Dr. Anuwat Nateewathana Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Thailand)</p> <p>Ms. Ahsanal Kasasiah Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (Indonesia)</p> <p>Dr. Wang Bin State Oceanic Administration (PR China)</p>
1530 – 1600	Open Forum	
1600 – 1630	Tea/Coffee Break	
1630 – 1730	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management of National and Transboundary Marine Protected Areas in Malaysia ▪ Cooperation between Marine 	<p>Ms. Cheryl Kaur Maritime Institute of Malaysia (Malaysia)</p>

	<p>Protected Area and Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participatory Approach for Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Coastal Conservation 	<p>Dr. Chu Manh Trinh Cham Islands Protected Area Authority (Viet Nam)</p> <p>Ms. Atjima Meepring Thailand Environment Institute (Thailand)</p>
Part 3. Common goals, targets and standards for partnership and collaboration		
November 25 1030 – 1045	Recap of Part 1 and 2	Secretariat
1045 – 1200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network of MPAs in East Asia: Case study from the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands • Initiatives on Gap Analysis for MPAs in the ASEAN Region • Potential MPA management effectiveness system for the regional/national/site level 	<p>Dr. Llewellyn Young Ramsar Convention Secretariat (Switzerland)</p> <p>Dr. Filiberto Pollisco, Jr. ASEAN Biodiversity Centre</p> <p>Dr. Naoko Morimoto, Dr. Mark Tupper and Dr. Kohei Hibino Japan Wildlife Research Center, Japan and World Fish Center (Philippines)</p>
1200 – 1230	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Is there are need to harmonize the various MPA networks being developed in the Region?</p> <p>What goals and targets might we want to work together on?</p> <p>What common standards might we adopt for our targets?</p>	<p>Panel Discussants:</p> <p>Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (Viet Nam)</p> <p>Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Thailand)</p> <p>Dr. Gabriel Antonius Wagey Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries(Indonesia)</p> <p>Dr. Alan T. White The Nature Conservancy(USA)</p> <p>Dr. Hugh Kirkman Marine Science and Ecology (Australia)</p>
1230 – 1400	Lunch	
Part 4: Consensus on a joint strategy for MPA networks in East Asia		
1400 – 1600	<p>Panel Discussion (Continued)</p> <p>Plenary Discussion How do we propose to achieve our goals?</p>	

	What are our targets and approaches?	
1600 – 1630	Tea/Coffee Break	
1630 – 1730	Plenary Discussion (continued)	
1800 – 1830	Conclusion Presentation and confirmation of consensus for submission to Theme Coordinator and Ministerial Forum	Chairpersons