

# Review and Potential MPA Management Effectiveness Standards for the Regional/National/Site Level

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The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 and the 7th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-7) in 2004 have adopted a global target to establish representative and effectively managed networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2012. Since then, there has been an increasing demand to assess and evaluate the progress of MPA management in standardized ways. To date, there have been over 6300 assessments recorded from 100 countries on management effectiveness of protected areas, but there are wide range of methodologies and the outcomes are often not readily comparable among studies (Leverington et al., 2008). In terms of MPAs, there are several MPA management effectiveness (hereafter, MME) standards available including the "How is your MPA doing?" (Pomeroy et al., 2004) and the MPA scorecard (Staub and Hatzios, 2004). However, these standards are not as widely used as their familiarity. The reasons could be that, the former standard requires certain amount of scientific information which are often difficult to take, and the later one is rather simple but the results may differ by the respondents due to subjective nature of the questionnaires.

The questionnaire survey conducted prior to the International Coral Reef Marine Protected Area Network Meeting / 4th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop, 17-19th November 2008, Tokyo, Japan (Ministry of the Environment, 2009a) revealed that only 2 out of 9 East Asian countries have their own MME standards, and the others are more or less trying to develop their own MME standards. The participants in the workshop including 10 East Asian governments have agreed to look for



appropriate MME standards at regional/ national/ site levels as one of the priority actions to take until 2010 (Ministry of the Environment, 2009b).

The current study seeks to fill above gaps and needs by: (1) reviewing the existing MME standards, (2) identifying appropriate indicators that reflect various types, levels, and characteristics of MPAs in East Asia region particularly on coral reefs and related ecosystems, and (3) compiling suggested core standards at regional, national and site levels taking into account the comparability with the existing MME assessments and evaluation of progress toward WSSD/CBD targets.

The draft review and suggested standards will be circulated to East Asian countries and relevant experts for review, and then submitted to the MPA network workshop in the East Asian Seas Congress 2009 and the 5th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop (8-11th December 2009, Vietnam) for further discussion and inputs. It is expected that the draft suggested standards will be finalized and adopted at the 6th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop due in mid of 2010 (location, TBD), and serve as a good reference for the region and the countries to identify their appropriate standards to monitor progress of and enhance MPA management.