

# Initiative on Gap Analysis for MPAs in the ASEAN Region

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The Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) of the CBD discussed the overall target “to support the establishment and maintenance by 2010 for marine areas of comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative national and regional systems of protected areas”. ACB, as an intergovernmental organization, envisions to contribute to the fulfillment of this target. During the 2nd AHP Conference in 2007 conducted by ACB, it was reported that by middle of 2012, a Marine Global Network could be attained provided the following critical activities would be undertaken: a) capacity building; b) adoption of appropriate technologies; c) monitoring and coordination network; and d) evaluation systems.

In 2008 ACB conducted an "Experts' Meeting on Marine Gap Analysis for the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Viet Nam." Country reports emphasized the lack of data in MPAs and that there is a need to link initiatives in governance, ecoregions and marine corridors. Accordingly, attempts to network was initiated since 2001 with the objectives of alleviating poverty in coastal communities; identify areas of highest diversity for conservation; and identifying areas that are important for sustainable fisheries. There is a need to establish a network to safeguard the marine turtles.

During the Regional Workshop on Gap Analyses for Marine Protected Areas in the ASEAN Region” in September 2009, it was reported that although MPAs are recognized as crucial to conserving biodiversity, only a few (about 10-20%) are effectively managed. Current gaps include management effectiveness and transboundary management; representation and effective MPA connectivity network; prioritization and identification of sites of global/regional significance to preserve biodiversity; and coordination to share information, combine resources and conduct capacity building. Regional gaps include management of migratory species; protection of threatened and wide ranging species; and transboundary MPA management.



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ACB, will continue to support the effective management of the MPAs and MPA network through its different components in collaboration with AMS, ICRI, WorldFish and other organizations working on MPAs.