

HO4. Management Effectiveness Components and (some) Indicators

Governance

- What is the MPA's **governance structure** – management and advisory boards or committees?
- Is the governance structure **clearly defined** and documented? Is it **in accordance with relevant national or regional government, jurisdiction** or recognised authority specifications?
- Is it clear **who takes the decisions**?
- Are **stakeholders actively engaged** at all levels of governance and management? Are they satisfied with their relationships with the MPA?
- Is there a **conflict resolution mechanism** in place (e.g. protocol for dealing with complaints against the MPA, conflict with fishers etc)?
- Do stakeholders **understand MPA rules and regulations**? Are the regulations and controls clearly defined?
- Is there an understanding of **planning and management arrangements for areas beyond the MPA**, and suitable co-ordination mechanisms in place?

Sound Design and Planning

- **Boundaries:** in the right place to achieve the conservation objectives (e.g. are spawning/nursery areas of key species included? adequately marked (e.g. on charts as well as physically) and known by stakeholders)
- **Size:** large enough to both protect existing biodiversity and allow of changes (e.g. climate change and species/habitat movements)?
- **Zoned for different uses, protection purposes?** If so, is this appropriate? Is there a no-take zone?
- Is there an up-to-date **management plan**? Is it adequate? Is it used?
- Are there other annual work plans or operational planning tools? Is it agreed by all relevant stakeholders?
- **Baseline information:** have the biodiversity, physical aspects, socio-economic uses been surveyed? Is there a resource inventory or site database?
- Have **pressures and threats** for key species/ habitats/ecosystems in the site been identified and their **impact** assessed (indicate inside/outside, type, rank and confidence level)?
- Has **climate change** been considered and plans made for adaptation and mitigation?

Operational/day-to-day management

- **Staff numbers and capacity and training** – including volunteers, personnel from other agencies etc (not only individual employed in the traditional sense) – ideally you would do a “staff needs assessment”; does the MPA have adequate knowledge and skills within the team?
- **Enforcement procedures** clearly defined, adequate surveillance/patrols undertaken and penalties imposed as appropriate; adequate equipment and training?
- **Financing:** is the current budget adequate for essential needs (to meet the conservation objectives); is it secure; is it appropriately managed and audited; what funding gaps are there? Is there a core annual government budget? Is there income from MPA visitor fees? Is there capacity for raising project funds? Are the accounts published and appropriately scrutinised?
- Is the **equipment, facilities, infrastructure** adequate? Appropriate maintenance programme?
- Adequate **safety and security** measures and equipment in place?
- Necessary **research** undertaken? (by MPA staff or associates).
- **Monitoring programmes** being carried out as laid out in protocols – species.
- **Visitor management.**
- **Education and awareness.**
- **Other management activities** being undertaken as laid out in management plan: habitat restoration, clean-ups, invasive species control ...

Conservation Outcomes

- Have the necessary **thresholds** for targets for the conservation of the ecological values been reached?
- What is the **condition of the species/habitats/ecosystems** specified for protection?
- **Trends** - Are they declining, improving, or staying the same?
- What is the **reason for any changes**?
- What **actions** are needed?
- As above for **ecosystem services**?
- As above for **cultural values** (if part of the conservation objectives)?