

# Exercise on Indicators - Discussion on conservation objectives

**1. Discuss about the conservation objectives of the MPA. If this was not already covered in the presentation and subsequent discussion, think about the MPA conservation objectives – have they been identified and are they SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound)?**

- Have conservation objectives (COs) been set for the MPA? What format are they (legally binding, published and in management plan but not legally binding, in progress etc)?
- Are the COs specific to the /species/habitats/ecosystems for which the MPA has been designated, or are they general for all marine biodiversity at the site?
- Do the COs define the degree of conservation/condition of the species/habitats/ecosystems to be achieved and/or maintained within the MPA, the relevant attributes and measurable targets in accordance with their ecological requirements?
- Are there secondary conservation objectives relating to ecosystem SERVICES (i.e. socio-economic issues)? If not, do you think there should be (recognising that the primary purpose of an MPA is marine biodiversity protection)?

# Exercise on Indicators - Select indicators by Component

**2. Choose one or two of the four components of management effectiveness (Governance, Sound Design and Planning, Effective Management, or Conservation Outcomes) that you think would be useful or interesting to look at. For each component, identify 2 or 3 indicators that would be suitable for your MPA (see slides).**

- Then ask: Is there existing data available that allows you to assess how well the MPAs are doing on this indicator?
- If yes, what does the data tell you? Is it good or adequate? If not, what more could be done? What actions are needed?
- If you don't have the data or information, what is needed to collect the necessary information? – e.g. establish a monitoring programme, find funding, data collectors, set up better system for storing existing data if the data are being collected but are not in a useful focus

# Management Effectiveness 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?

# Management Effectiveness Indicators – 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?

# Management Effectiveness Indicators – 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 ...

# Management Effectiveness Indicators – 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)?