

North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN) Action Plan: Draft Framework

Following are the main agreements and outcomes from the Ensenada trilateral workshop held on 23 January 2004, carried out with the goal of developing the framework and identifying the essential elements of an action plan to implement a NAMPAN pilot.

1. Introduction

The Strategic Plan for North American Cooperation in the Conservation of Biodiversity represents the shared commitment of the three North American countries to cooperate in support of conservation action at a continental scale.

The Vision of the Strategic Plan is to help build “*A North American society that appreciates and understands the importance of biodiversity and is committed to collaborative conservation and sustainable use of North America’s rich and diverse ecosystems, habitats and species for the wellbeing of present and future generations.*”

The Strategic Plan is structured through six goals. The NAMPAN is a project under the first goal: “*Promote the cooperation for the conservation and maintenance of North American regions of ecological significance.*”

The pilot project of the NAMPAN is among the twelve priority areas for action identified by the Biodiversity Conservation Working Group for the implementation of CEC’s *Strategic Plan for North American Cooperation in the Conservation of Biodiversity*.

The NAMPAN initiative is complemented by a parallel trilateral process aimed at conserving **Marine Species** of Common Conservation Concern (MSCCC), a project under the second goal of the Strategic plan: “Promote the conservation of North American migratory and transboundary species, and other species identified by the Parties.”

2. NAMPAN: A trilateral endeavor for the conservation of marine areas of common concern

An effective way of conserving habitats at a regional or ecoregional scale is to promote complementary, integrated conservation efforts that span national, state/provincial, and local jurisdictions. The values and benefits of protected areas are greatly increased when strategically linked into networks and augmented by compatible land and water management. Even large-scale multiple use protected areas may not adequately protect wide-ranging marine species on the regional scale, or they may lack essential linkages for crucial ecosystems.

The NAMPAN can be viewed as a nested and tri-national hierarchy of (1) *places* and (2) *institutions/people*.

1: Continental (*representative areas*), regional (*priority conservation areas*), species (*critical habitats*) and site (*most vital places*) scales of organization

2: Institutional (*coordinative linkages*); people (*stakeholders and tasks*)

A NAMPAN should support and complement conservation and management goals at various scales of organization including the continental (representative areas), regional (priority conservation areas), species (critical habitats) and site specific. It is also integrated by stakeholders and tasks, and institutional (coordinative) linkages.

3. The NAMPAN Pilot:

Facilitated by the CEC, the NAMPAN pilot will focus the cooperation of the three countries to achievable and necessary actions. The process to narrow the focus and determine priorities and sites can be assisted by ensuring that the process will be: (1) product driven, (2) relevant to all three countries, (3) applicable beyond B2B region, (4) builds on what already exists, and (5) will benefit from the involvement of the CEC.

3.1 NAMPAN Framework

NAMPAN themes:

1. Engagement of aboriginal/indigenous peoples/first nations
2. Awareness building; stakeholder involvement; public participation; ocean ethic
3. Coping with common stresses to resources.
4. Research, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on effectiveness
5. Training and capacity building & sharing of information
6. Innovative enabling approaches, creative financing and economic benefits of MPAs.

3.2 NAMPAN Selection criteria

Guiding criteria to select sister sites:

1. Existing and willing MPA¹
2. It protects shared biodiversity² (migratory or transboundary species/transboundary habitat)
3. It has institutional capacity and infrastructure
4. Is within a B2B PCA
5. That shares common issues (management, threats)
6. Capacity to share: lessons learned, management practices, etc.
7. That has existing monitoring projects or programs
8. Has an existing inventory
9. Has self sustaining capacity
10. Engages indigenous/first nations/aboriginal communities
11. It has networking capacity with local communities
12. There is clear understanding of threats and of the problem
13. Has a high chance of success
14. Has a high profile & visibility
15. It is found within geographically focused area and is amenable to protected areas
16. There is an existing champion
17. It is highly threatened and helps build public support
18. It is already subject to significant joint efforts
19. Its threats are found within North America

¹ In Canada existing projects, not necessarily MPAs, may be suitable for the pilot.

² Sites within the distribution range of migratory species, in particular, MSCCC.

Annex 2. Possible NAMPAN Pilot Results:

Near term:

- Initiate **tool kit** of nationally, bilaterally and tri-nationally useful tools in topic areas including:
 - Examples of MPA benefits
 - Management effectiveness indicators (including for SCCC)
 - Monitoring criteria and methods
 - Guideline series (e.g., cruise ships, whale watching)
 - Best practices in fishing industry (e.g., methods, institutional arrangements)
 - Integration of MPAs into regional coastal and ocean planning, including land-sea interface and watershed level
- Capacity building: staff visits/exchanges; thematic workshops; working with local and indigenous communities, etc.
- Collaborative science
- Clearing house for information/lessons learned
- A people network: direct dialogue

Long term:

- A tri-national system of MPAs embracing all levels of the above-mentioned “places” hierarchy, including where practical (but not exclusively) spaces critical to marine SCCC
- A forum to leverage improved management. of connecting corridors with particular reference to Marine SCCC, and adaptive management thereafter in response to monitoring agreed indicators; assessing threats