



***Building Capacity for Effectively Managed
MPAs at the Network Scale***

National MPA Center Monthly Webinar Series

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NOAA's International MPA Capacity Building Program

THE DURBAN ACCORD

“ . . . is calling on the international community to establish by 2012 a global system of effectively managed, representative networks of marine and coastal protected areas”, “. . . MPAs are to be extensive and include strictly protected areas that amount to at least 20-30% of each habitat.”

(Sept. 2003)



International MPA Capacity Building Program

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

- **NMSS facilitates a process to bring together coastal and marine resource managers, and key stakeholders, to learn directly from one another**
- **Sharing of new knowledge, information, guidelines coming out of science, traditional knowledge, field experience and lessons learned**
- **Bring in expertise from throughout NOAA, other state and federal government agencies, regional expertise, and topical technical experts – all with direct field experience in MPAs**
- **Built on strong in-country partnerships that supports moving the MPA networks from learning to implementation**

International MPA Capacity Building Program

- ✓ work with networks of MPAs
- ✓ basic criteria needs to be met by MPAs
- ✓ 3-5 year commitment
- ✓ on-the-ground partners
- ✓ start with comprehensive needs assessment
- ✓ implementation agreements
- ✓ mentor/ ToT program
- ✓ institutionalization





International MPA Capacity Building Program

- ✓ MPA-101
- ✓ Management Planning
- ✓ Planning for Sustainable Fisheries
- ✓ Planning for Sustainable Tourism
- ✓ Climate Change Adaptation
- ✓ Stakeholder Engagement
- ✓ Marine Spatial Planning



International MPA Capacity Building Program

- ✓ topical training
- ✓ skill development workshops
- ✓ regional site exchanges
- ✓ site specific capacity building
- ✓ working directly with stakeholder-based planning teams
- ✓ working with mentors to build leadership & take ownership of program





International MPA Capacity Building Program A TYPICAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE IN THE ETPS

■ Opportunity for in-depth learning:

- *gathering place in an MPA which is used as case study site*

- *classroom learning through structured curriculum, including MPA managers, key stakeholders & regional technical experts*

- *exchanges with local fishermen cooperative; visit to seafood processing plant; meeting with livelihood diversification program*

■ Results-based learning:

- *joint demonstration projects; exchanges between countries*

**Status report on the geographies where
we work . . .**



International MPA Capacity Building Program

- South China Sea



SOUTH CHINA SEA

China, Vietnam, Cambodia

- **Partners:** *IUCN, Danida, MoFI, MARD*

- **Purpose & Need:**

Network of 15 MPAs in VN designated, but no management in place

- **Challenges:**

Difficulty with future planning, strong national focus on economic development, complex government structure

- **Results:**

7 years of capacity building, strong institutionalization, range of capacity amongst MPAs, next 2 years focus is MSP

- **Lessons Learned:**

Training of provincial level officials is essential for success of MPAs





International MPA Capacity Building Program

- South China Sea
- Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape



EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC SEASCAPE

Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador

- **Partners:** *CI, UNESCO, Malpelo Foundation*

- **Purpose & Need:**

Management that works with high levels of biophysical connectivity, complete WHS designations, become a functional seascape

- **Challenges:**

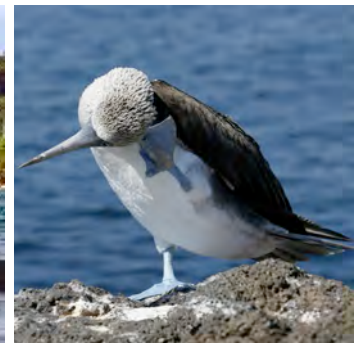
Geography, coordinated on-the-ground presence, prioritization of CB, levels of government buy-in, rotating staff

- **Results:**

4 years of capacity building addressing priority resource management issues, now narrowing scope of work to fisheries and enforcement

- **Lessons Learned:**

Needs stronger institutionalization within each country

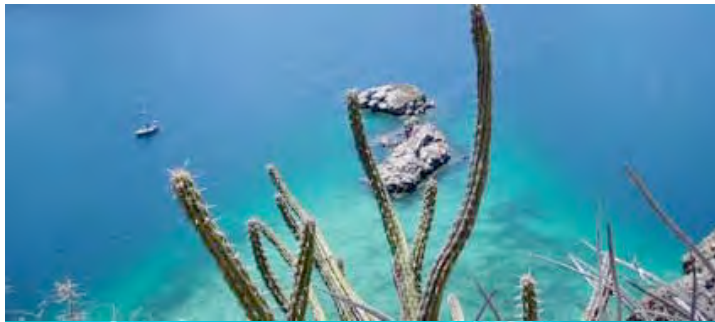




International MPA Capacity Building Program

- South China Sea
- Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape
- Gulf of California





GULF OF CALIFORNIA Sea of Cortez

- Partners: *TNC, WWF, National Parks*

- Purpose & Need:

Become a functional network

- Challenges:

Slow to develop mentor program & institutionalization

Results:

Strong partnership, capacity built with current generation of participants, but future needs will be harder to meet

- Lessons Learned:

Mentor program and institutionalization difficult to retro-fit into program



International MPA Capacity Building Program

- South China Sea
- Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape
- Gulf of California
- Coral Triangle



CORAL TRIANGLE – 3 PROJECTS

Bird's Head Seascape, Papua

- Partners: *CI, TNC, WWF*

- Purpose & Need:

Newly designated sites to be managed at district/community level with little to no capacity

- Challenges:

Low capacity, few reference points about what future could look like

- Results:

Strong mentor program, excellent prospects for institutionalization, capacity improving significantly

- Lessons Learned:

Multi-dimensional CB program has been successful





International MPA Capacity Building Program

- South China Sea
- Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape
- Gulf of California
- Coral Triangle
- Mediterranean



MEDPAN SOUTH – 3 PROJECTS

11 Non-EU Countries

- Partners: *WWF, UNEP, RACSPA*

- Purpose & Need:

Create a functional network for underserved Mediterranean MPAs

- Challenges:

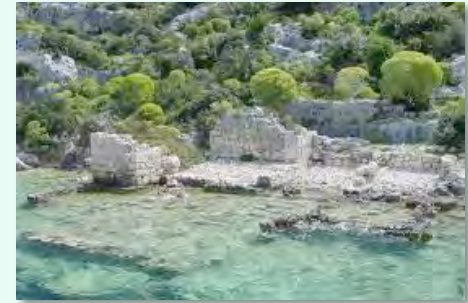
Huge range of cultures, countries and languages, capacity and political will very low

- Results:

Strong social network developed between mentors; Croatia, Algeria, Libya and Turkey making excellent progress

- Lessons Learned:

Focusing at the country level as been far more successful than across the 11 countries





International MPA Capacity Building Program

- South China Sea
- Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape
- Gulf of California
- Coral Triangle
- Mediterranean
- Western Indian Ocean





International MPA Capacity Building Program

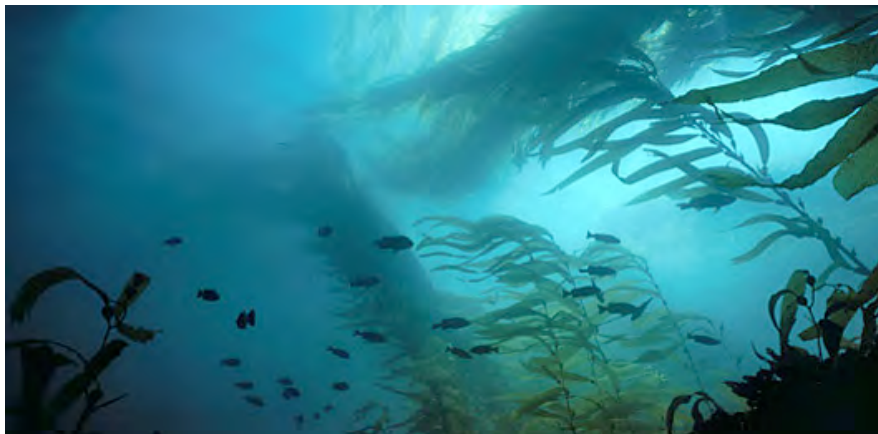
- South China Sea
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- Western Indian Ocean
- PIPA



BUILDING CAPACITY AT THE SEASCAPE SCALE

Conclusions – What We Learned About Effective Capacity Building

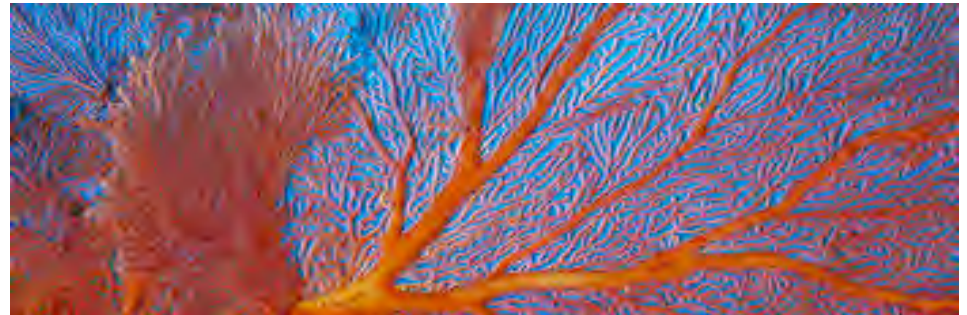
- ✓ In spite of the claims that every network of MPAs is unique, there are actually more commonalities than differences
- ✓ Continually working on creative solutions to move from training to implementation
- ✓ Difficult to build sufficient management capacity for each MPA, works better to build collective capacity across a network of MPAs
- ✓ Need to create *functional* framework for MPA networks in order to fully realize the value of collective capacity
- ✓ Make a commitment for the long term, while always planning that exit strategy



BUILDING CAPACITY AT THE SEASCAPE SCALE

Conclusions – What Have We Taken Away From This Experience

- ✓ Documenting and articulating what one knows brings about a richer understanding
- ✓ Sharing that with others, especially from different cultures, forces one to identify the key elements of addressing critical resource management issues – what is *really* important
- ✓ Every day, every engagement, is a learning experience that enriches our own knowledge base and makes us better resource managers
- ✓ Extreme satisfaction in contributing to shared problem solving by drawing on what one has learned in one particular geography, and then applying it to another geography
- ✓ Exposure to new settings, meeting new colleagues, and new ways of thinking – provides inspiration for our own work at home



"How often does one get an opportunity to step outside of your comfort zone and share your experiences with people doing similar work around the world? Participating in the International Capacity Building Program was one of the most enjoyable and rewarding experiences I've had in my 14 years as a sanctuary superintendent. I learned a great deal from my "students" and the course materials that I have applied back home, making me a better manager. Just as important, I came back with a renewed sense of hope and energy, qualities essential to successfully navigating the challenging environment in which we work."





Thank You