

Abstract

SESSION 2:

Accelerating Actions for Sustainable Development and Climate Change

WORKSHOP 2.1:

Scaling up ICM: Innovations and Impacts at Local, National and Regional Levels

Enhancing Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas through Networking and Implementation of “Ecological Red-Line”

Zhao Linlin

Assistant Researcher

The First Institute of Oceanography

State Oceanic Administration People's Republic of China

Qingdao, China



Marine protected areas (MPAs) are special places in our oceans, which can protect endangered species, sensitive habitats, cultural heritage, and important ecosystems. In order to enhance the effectiveness of marine protected areas, some scientific measures need to be undertaken.

Dongying is a typical coastal city, located in the estuary of Yellow River. The city hosts the second largest oil industry in China and is also one of the cities in northern China with rapid development in marine economy. In the face of tremendous environmental pressure, six MPAs were established along the coastline of the city.

In order to strengthen local capacity in managing marine protected areas, Dongying city actively participated in a GEF project on “Demonstration of Estuarine Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Protected Area Networking in China”. Moreover, in 2012, SOA finalized and announced the Bohai Sea Marine Ecological Red-line Zoning Plan, which clearly identified limited development zone and prohibited development zone in Dongying City, especially in the MPA areas.

The implementation of these measures has achieved remarkable effects. The management capacity of the MPA management offices was significantly improved, especially in relation to plan formulation, financing and implementation. Damaged areas were restored leading to significant improvement in the coastal environment. And as the Yellow river delta is an important area in the bird migration routes, the protected areas network has played an important role in regional ecological protection, particularly for migratory species like birds. The oriental white stork (*Ciconia boyciana*), which was found every year since 1997 during the migratory seasons, increased in number each year, and in 2014 a new record of 50 nests was established.

Several scientific projects are currently being carried out in this region to further establish the linkage of the management and networking of MPAs and the implementation of the “ecological red-line” to improving biodiversity protection and sustainable coastal development in Dongying.



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About Zhao Linlin:

Zhao Linlin is an assistant researcher at the First Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration People's Republic of China in Qingdao, China. His research interests include marine protected areas, systematic conservation planning, marine biodiversity protection, and management effectiveness evaluation. He has participated in several researches including the National Key Basic Research Program from the Ministry of Science and Technology in China.

He received his MA in Fishery Resource and his PhD in Fishery Resource from Fishery College, Ocean University of China in Qingdao, China.