

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

Improving Biodiversity Conservation and Resilience to Climate Change through Integrated Coastal and Marine Protected Areas Management in the ASEAN Region

Sheila G. Vergara

Director, Biodiversity Information Management
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines



Consequences of rapidly growing populations in the ASEAN Region like changing consumption patterns, over exploitation, and pollution threaten biodiversity. Added pressure is imposed by climate change, through rising sea levels, increase in the frequency and intensity of storms that result in floods, erosion of coasts and beaches, and inundation of coastal lands. A conservation strategy that addresses the multitude of threats to coastal environments is necessary and should maintain ecosystem integrity in the face of climate change, as well as ensure the persistence of its biodiversity components.

Regional studies and reviews advice that a well-informed and science-based approach to selecting priority areas with high conservation success potential, a conservation approach that is supported by a well-structured and responsible governance system, a supportive stakeholder network, and a means to exchange information, lessons learned and best practices is a combination worth investing in.

A collaboration between PEMSEA and ACB entitled “Achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets through Integrated Coastal Management” is proposed to undertake an integrated approach to improve the resilience of coastal and marine areas in the ASEAN region and conserve their biodiversity. The implementation of this project will add value by applying a systematic approach to strengthening the management effectiveness of marine protected areas under a variety of political, social, economic and environmental conditions to implement the SDS-SEA. The project will demonstrate the use of a conservation-focused integrated coastal management (ICM) framework and process to support and strengthen actions identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans.



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About Sheila G. Vergara:

Sheila G. Vergara, PhD is a marine ecologist by training and has managed projects on coastal zone management, marine biodiversity conservation, coastal zone management training and database management. She has worked with both Philippine Government agencies and International Organizations based in the Philippines. She served the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as Head Executive Assistant and National Coordinator of the then Coastal Environment Program, as Team Leader of ReefBase and the Coastal Management Training Program at the WorldFish Center, and Marine Biodiversity Program Director at Conservation International – Philippines. At current she leads the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity's (ACB's) Biodiversity Information Management team. Their combined efforts have produced the ASEAN Clearing House Mechanism for Biodiversity (<http://chm.aseanbiodiversity.org>) a platform for sharing biodiversity related information in the region.