



Vietnam Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness Evaluation

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Marine Protected Areas: Global Status



- There are over **161,000 protected areas** in the world (October, 2010) with more being added daily; they cover 10 to 15% of the world's land surface area.
- In contrast, although there are about **6,500 Marine Protected Areas**, only 1.17% of the world's ocean areas were protected in 2010; and the area protected currently is just over 2% (2014: 2.09%).
- However, only 0.83% of the ocean area is enclosed within strongly protected no-take marine reserves, or MPA core zones.

The Value of Marine Protected Areas



- Globally, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are regarded as essential assets to safeguard biodiversity and to sustain productive seas, and coastal and marine ecosystems.
- MPAs can increase biodiversity and human food resources in tropical and temperate ecosystems, as well as serving as insurance against the negative impacts of fishing, other destructive activities and climate change.
- MPAs also provide valuable alternative livelihood opportunities, especially through ecotourism, as well as unique opportunities for education and research
- If well-managed, MPAs are an effective way of protecting marine ecosystems, along with their cultural and historical heritages, for both the present and for future generations.

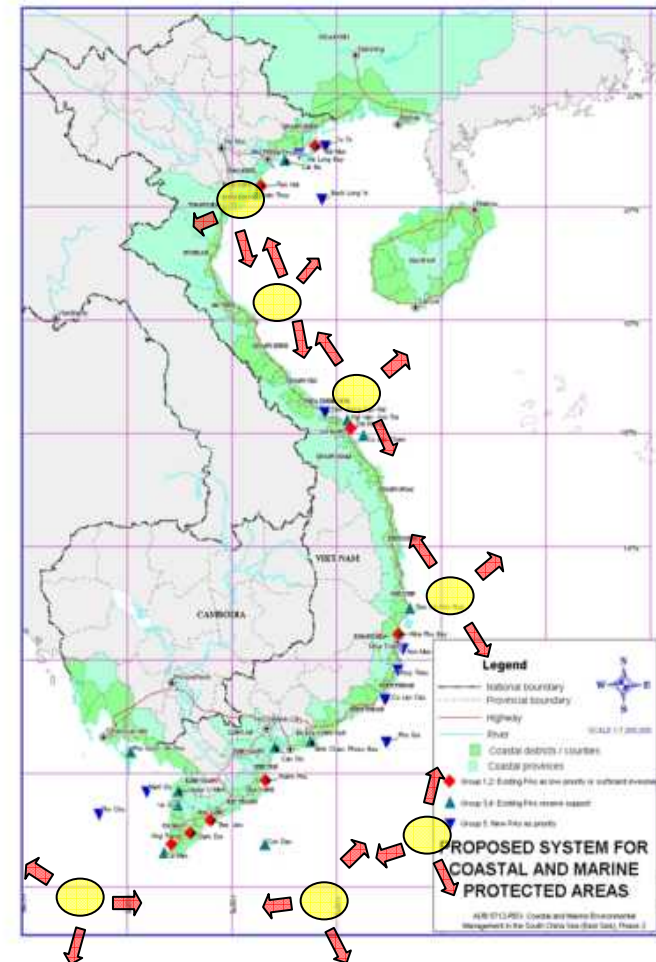
National Target Program



- National target program to response to climate change and sea level rise towards year 2020.
- National project on restoration of the mangrove to 2015, directions to 2020.
- **National program on ICM in 14 coastal provinces** in Central Vietnam in period 2007-2010, and 2011-2020; and scaling up to 14 remaining others with PEMSEA's technical support.
- **National program on setting a network of 16 MPAs;**
- National project on vulnerability assessment of coastal environment and resources and coastal hazard prediction in Vietnam.
- GPA project to manage coastal marine pollution from land-based sources with UNEP's technical support.

PROPOSED MPA NETWORKS

- 1). Con Dao National Park – Ba Ria-Vung Tau
- 2). Cat Ba National Park – Hai Phong
- 3). Hon Mun MPA – Khanh Hoa
- 4). Hon Cau (Cu Lao Cau) – Binh Thuan
- 5). Cu Lao Cham – Quang Nam
- 6). Phu Qui – Binh Thuan
- 7). Bach Long Vi – Hai Phong
- 8). Co To – Quang Ninh
- 9). Ly Son – Quang Ngai
- 10). Hai Van-Son Tra – Thua Thien Hue
- 11). Truong Sa – (Khanh Hoa)
- 12). Con Co – Quang Tri**
- 13). Dao Tran – Quang Ninh
- 14). Hon Me – Thanh Hoa
- 15). Phu Quoc – Kien Giang**
- 16). Nui Chua – Ninh Thuan**



The proposed 16 MPAs for the Viet Nam MPA network are small and located in water close to the shore

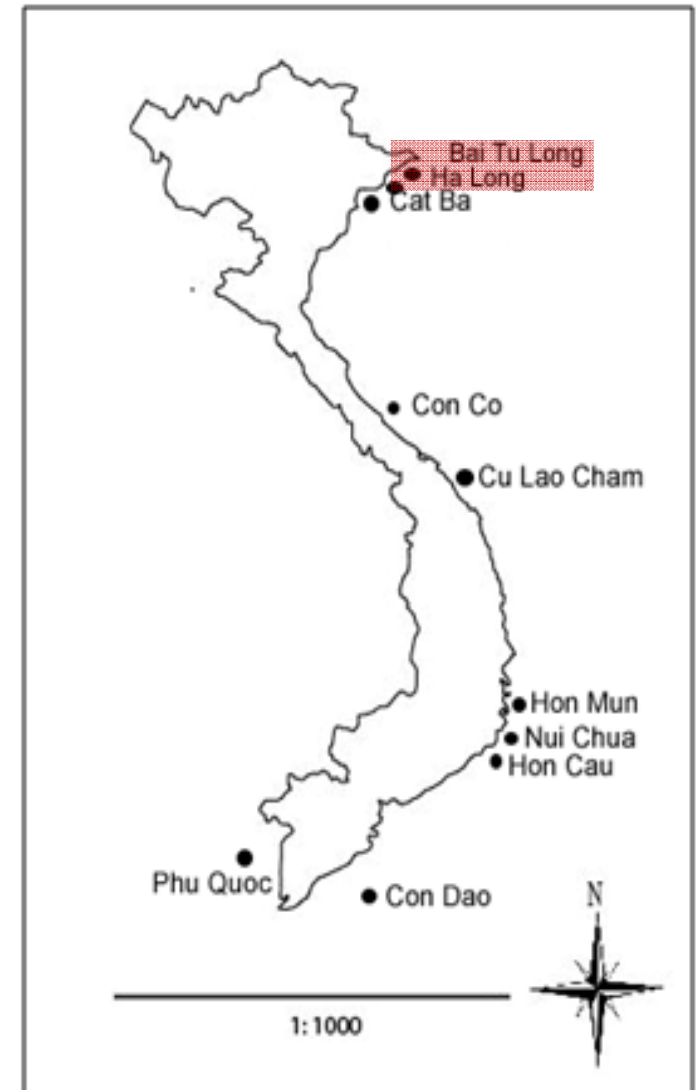
Background

- Vietnam has established eight MPAs and plans to establish eight more in the near future.
- The first MPA is Hon Mun (Nha Trang), established in 2001
- No management effectiveness evaluation (MEE) of the existing eight MPAs so far



Study objectives and scope

- To study how standards for MPA management are being met, and set the guidelines for the planned MPA expansion:
 - Carrying out an initial rapid MEE of all eight sites
 - Establishing a baseline;
 - Identifying major management challenges; and
 - Proposing an MEE standardized template that can be applied across all MPAs on a systematic basis.
- Study covered eight existing MPAs and two National Park and WHS with water component (Bai Tu Long and Ha Long)



Methodology



- Two questionnaires were designed, one for MPA staff and one for other stakeholders with the consultancy of NOAA's MPA MEE specialist
- The questionnaires were sent to the MPAs two weeks prior to the visit.
- All 10 sites were visited in March-April 2015
- The visiting review team consisted of two IUCN staff and an officer from the Vietnam Directorate of Fisheries (D-FISH)
- The results were then reviewed and assessed by NOAA specialist

Results – Management structure



National Park	People's Committee	Provincial DARD
Nui Chua (PC)	Cu Lao Cham	Hon Cau
Con Dao (PC)	Nha Trang	Phu Quoc
Bai Tu Long (PC)	Ha Long	Con Co
Cat Ba (DARD)		

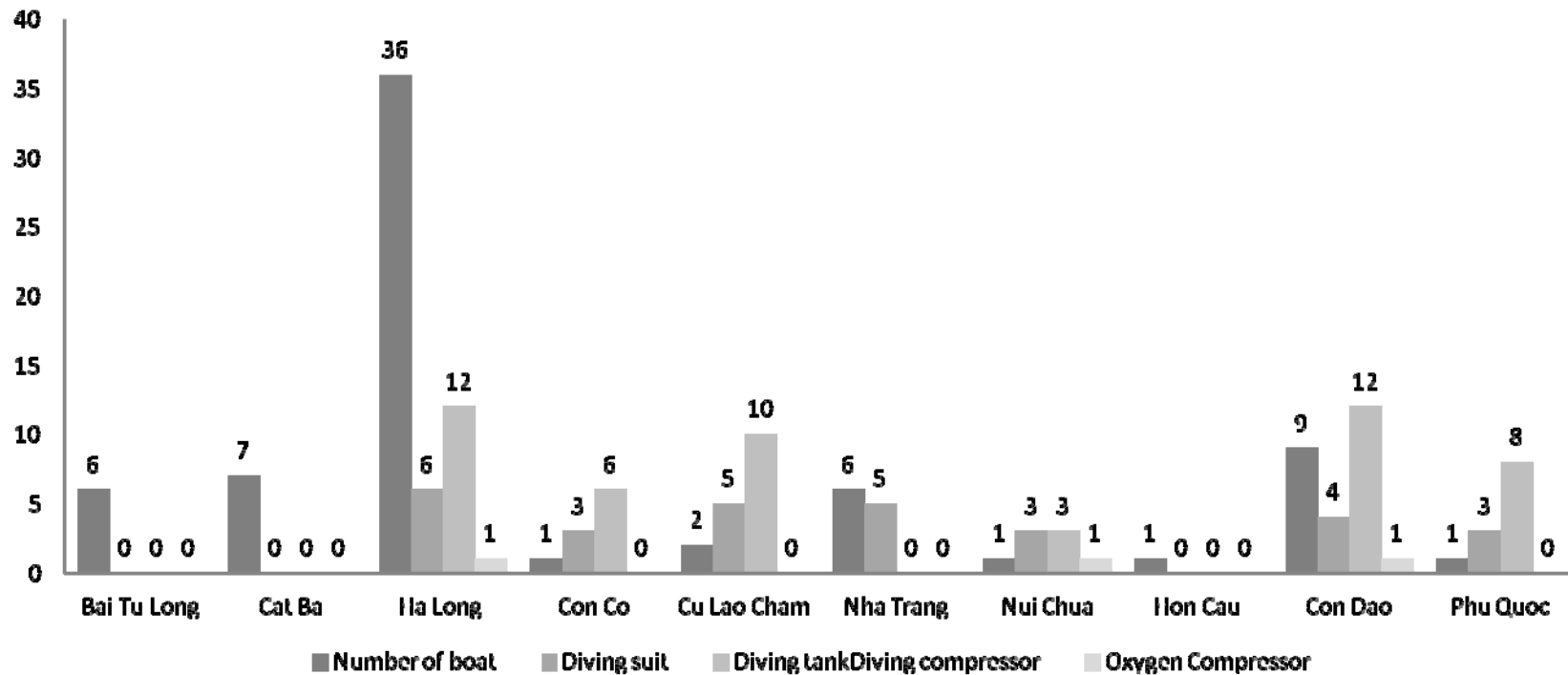
- All the MPAs carry out patrols but these MPAs have no authority to enforce the law (except 4 National Parks where they have Forest Protection staff with the power to make arrests)

Results – Staff capacity



- All MPAs lack staff with professional backgrounds in marine biology. Most MPA staff were trained as foresters.
- With the exception of Con Dao on biodiversity monitoring program for coral reef, sea grass bed and marine turtles, none of them have strong research or monitoring programs.

Results - Facilities



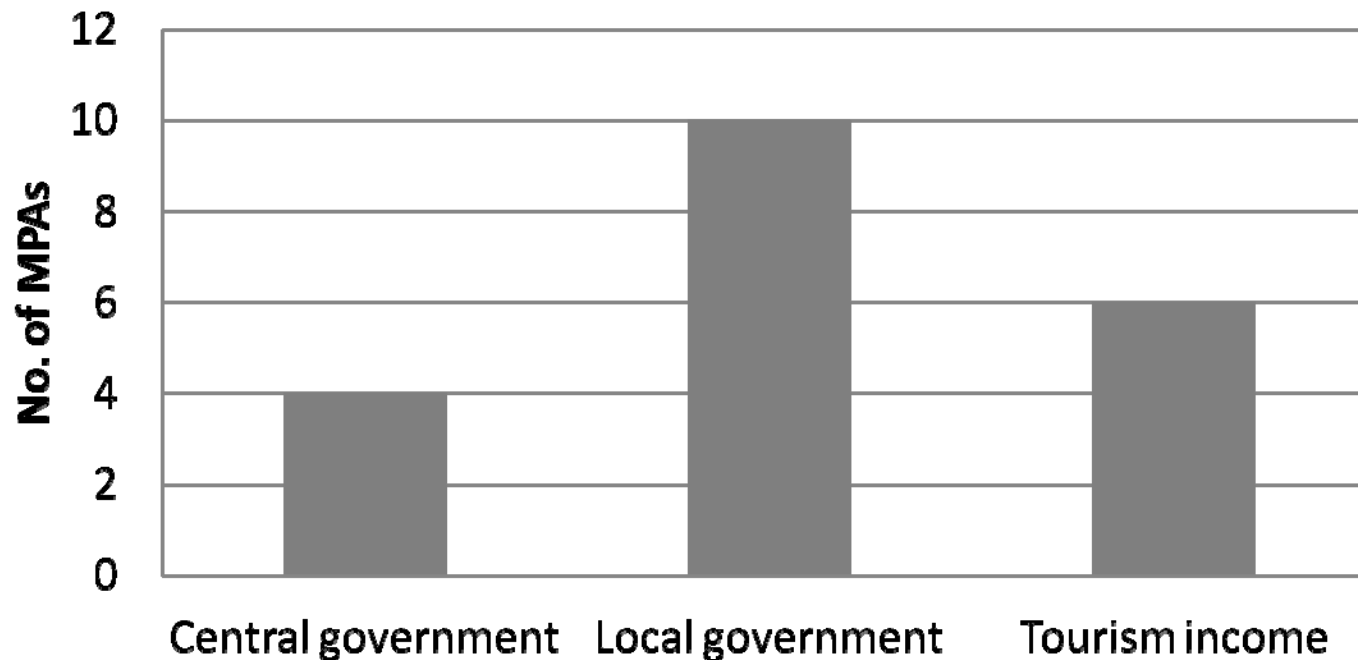
- Most MPAs lack proper facilities, especially boats and diving equipment, to carry out research or in some cases even the most basic field work.
- Together with inadequate funding, this leads to weak to non-existent law enforcement and monitoring in most MPAs.

Results – Management planning



- There is no requirement from MARD to develop such management plans. The only MPAs to have done so (Ha Long Bay, Cu Lao Cham, Nha Trang, Con Co) received project support.
- There has been no MEE on which to base management plans.

Results - Financing



- **4 MPA/National Park** received financing support from Central Gov
- **None** of the MPAs have sufficient funding to carry out essential management activities.
- **Most** MPA managers cite tourism as the most promising source of sustainable financing but only a few MPAs (e.g., Nha Trang, Ha Long, Cu Lao Cham, Con Dao) directly generate significant income from tourism.

Sustainable financing



Income from tourism activities	Collection fees annually (2014)	% return to the MPA Management Board
Ha Long Bay	22,000,000 US\$	18%
Con Dao	220,000 US\$	100%
Cu Lao Cham	210,000 US\$	50%
Nha Trang Bay	140,000 US\$	100%
Cat Ba	90,000 US\$	100%
Nui Chua	70,000 US\$	100%
Phu Quoc	1,000 US\$	
Bai Tu Long	N/A	
Hon Cau	N/A	
Con Con	N/A	

Key messages – sustainable financing



- Substantial amounts of fund are able to be generated through tourism by user fees
- Fund generated are being provided to management authorities to maintain the environment
- Challenges exist in identifying clear mechanism for allocation of funds to local communities

Recommendations (1)



- **Generally**, Vietnam should not wait for the "perfect" financial and legal framework to be in place → make better use of existing resources and to leverage existing relationships with local governments, businesses, universities, and other potential partners.
- **Financing**: A policy on tourism revenue sharing applicable to all MPAs as sustainable financing is essential.
- **Management plan**: All MPAs have to develop 5-year management plans that uses a standard template and responds explicitly to the results of a more detailed MEE to be carried out in each site.
- The management plan should not be developed by a consultant. Each site should conduct their own stakeholder-based process, which is as valuable as the plan itself.

Recommendations (2)



- **MEE:** The major lesson learned is that MEE provides a consistent and structured approach to understanding and assessing management weaknesses and opportunities → MEE should be repeated every few years.
- **Enforcement:** the need for infrastructure support (and maintenance), increasing presence on the water, and improving interpretive enforcement (building a better public understanding of the regulations and zones).
- **Site promotion:** Most MPAs have a “flagship” program (e.g., turtle “head starting” in Con Dao, “plastics free campaign” in Cu Lao Cham that could be leveraged to generate public interest and potentially greater private/public funding → priority for investment.

Why ICM approach?



- Most impacts within the MPA are from human activities *outside* the boundaries of the MPA, e.g., land-based activities, agriculture, urban development, aquaculture, tourism, and port development and maintenance (dredging and dredged material disposal).

MPA within ICM



Many lessons learnt on MPA effectiveness management has approved that MPA can not be managed effectively in isolation from their surroundings in the coastal zone (e.g. *Nha Trang Bay MPA, Ha Long Bay WHS*)

“Integrated coastal zone management is a key approach to the management of Marine Protected Areas.

Management of MPAs can be achieved within the boundaries of the MPA, however is difficult to implement outside those boundaries.”



Thank you very much!