

1st Asia Parks Congress



Vietnam's Marine Protected Area Networks: Challenges and Opportunities

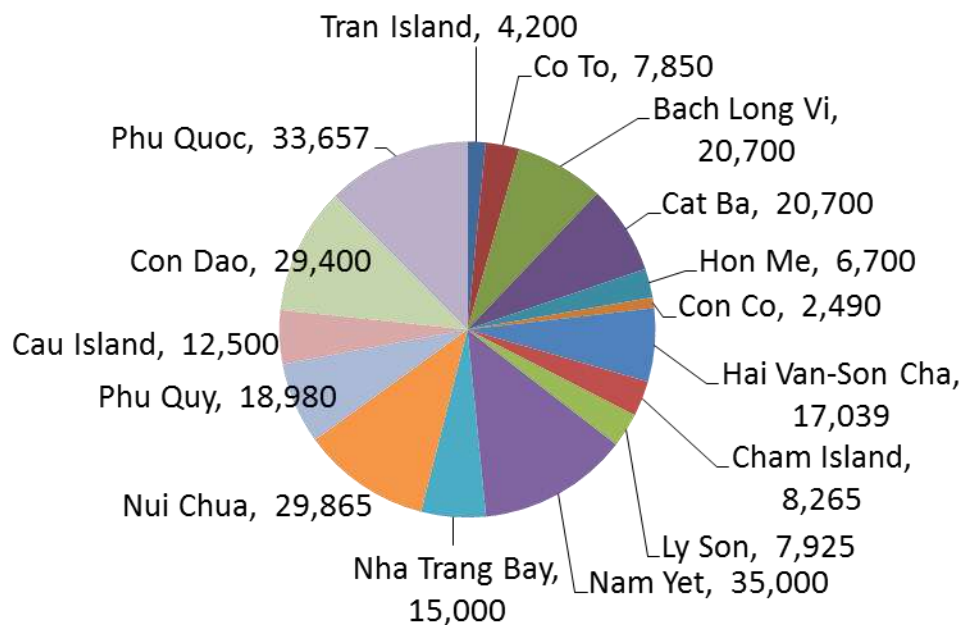
13-17 November 2013
Sendai, Japan

Bui Thi Thu Hien
MFF Viet Nam National Coordinator
Marine and Coastal Program
IUCN Viet Nam



MPA network in Viet Nam

The Vietnam MPA network includes 16 MPAs in 2015 (Decision 742/QĐ-TTg May 26th 2010); Total area: **270,271 ha**



MPAs have Management Board:

1. Nha Trang Bay MPA
2. Cham Island MPA
3. Con Co MPA
4. Hon Cau MPA
5. Phu Quoc MPA



Vietnam MPA Networks Status



- Most of MPAs in Vietnam are in near-shore, so have to be managed in integrated manner and ICM is a strongly supportive tool;
- Several MPAs earn significant income from ecotourism;
- General increase in abundance of marine species at these sites and strong efforts to improve management;
- All five established MPAs have management plans and most have conducted baseline surveys and are carrying out regular monitoring;
- A total investment cost, to 2020, is VND460 billion (US\$23 million), but no State or international funding has been secured

Challenges



- Coastal poor and densely populated with the number of fishers far above carrying capacity;
- Many impacts in MPAs are from human activities that originate outside the MPAs;

Challenges



- Management struggles to influence activities outside the MPAs.
- Unsustainable fishing and lack of long-term funding were among the most significant problems facing MPA managers
- Inability to enforce the law against illegal fishermen, especially outsiders who are attracted to the MPA because of increased fish stocks;

Key Environmental Issues



- Pollution and declining water quality;
- Destroy mangroves, tidal flat, sea grass bed and coral reef;
- Over fishing;
- Illegal trade of marine products;
- Increasing and unmanaged tourism/vessel traffic;
- Potential impact of shipping, including grounding, fuel spillage, cargo spillage, collisions, aesthetic impact on visual amenity;

Key Management Issues



- Lack of sharing information;
- Gap of knowledge, information;
- Enforcement and surveillance;
- Community participation;
- Single sector management;
- Awareness;
- Financing

What need to do?



- Training and capacity development for MPA managers;
- Sustainable Financing; and
- Livelihood support for people living in and around the MPA.

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.

Why Mangroves for the Future (MFF) Initiatives?



- MFF provides a **unique regional platform for concerted action in support of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)**
- MFF is a unique partner-led initiative to promote **investment in coastal ecosystem** conservation for sustainable development.
- MFF provides a collaborative platform among the many different agencies, sectors, and countries which are addressing challenges to **coastal ecosystem, livelihood and management issues ;**

MFF National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP)



- NSAP in Viet Nam assist Mangrove for the Future (MFF) initiative in identifying, designing, and planning activities in Vietnam;
- A living document subject to change in response to new opportunities in the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal ecosystems.
- It aims to provide an initial strategic orientation for MFF in Vietnam; work plans will be prepared on an annual basis.
- Aim to **support major national coastal management programs**. e.g. (1) National mangrove recovering program that MARD is leading; (2) ICM program that VASI is implementing in 10 provinces with PEMSEA support; (3) MONRE's National Target Program on Responding to Climate Change and Sea Level Rise; (4) **implementation of 16 MPAs under MARD management**; and (5) VASI's coastal and marine spatial planning program.

MFF works related to MPA networks in Viet Nam



- Supported conducting survey with 9 MPA managers focused on biodiversity conservation;
- Site-based interventions that target one or more of MPAs (e.g. Cu Lao Cham MPA);
- Economic analysis to justify State budget financing for MPAs on the basis of their proven role in protecting fish stocks and contributing to more sustainable local livelihoods;
- MFF Viet Nam in partnership with A GEF MPA component to a US\$100 million World Bank loan organized national workshop on the role of ICM and CMSP to reduce the dependence of coastal communities on unsustainable fishing is also under discussion.

Other Major Emerging Issues



- *How to increase resilience by investing in natural ecosystems?*
- *How to increase survival and ensure equitable benefit sharing?*
- *How can co-management help resolve conflicts and allow sector to transition?*

Does Vietnam have other options?

Recommendation



- Recommendations for incorporating MPAs into ICZM include:
 - Improve linkages between MPAs and the wider coastal and marine area;
 - Develop governance arrangements to integrate MPAs into broader coastal management processes.
 - Strengthen MPA management through use of enhanced policy and management tools.

Recommendation



- Ensure that adequate funding for management is allocated by the central Vietnamese government;
- MPAs can not be managed effectively in isolation from their surroundings in the coastal zone
- The future success of Vietnam's MPA system will depend on the ability and capacity of MPA managers;



THANK YOU!