Marine Protected Areas Management in Thailand

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MCPAs and CBD

- COP-7 (February 2004) - Updated programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, including new material and guidance on MCPAs (decision VII/5)

- Agreement that MCPAs work

- Agrees that marine protected areas are one of the essential tools and approaches in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity"

- COP-7 also adopted a Programme of work on Protected Areas (decision VII/25)
“any defined area within or adjacent to the marine environment, together with its overlying waters and associated flora, fauna and historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by legislation or other effective means, including custom, with the effect that its marine and/or coastal biodiversity enjoys a higher level of protection than its surroundings”

(Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2004)
the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas

“recognizes the value of a single international classification system for protected areas and the benefit of providing information that is comparable across countries and regions and therefore welcomes the
Thailand has primarily adopted the 6 categories Developed by the IUCN, which range in protection from strict nature reserves to more intensively managed resource areas (IUCN 2007)

I  Strict Nature Reserve and Wilderness Area
   - Ia  Strict Nature Reserve
   - Ib  Wilderness Area

II  National Park

III Natural Monument

IV  Habitat/Species Management Area

V   Protected Landscape/Seascape

VI  Managed Resource Protected Area
Protected areas

IUCN protected area management category

Most natural conditions

Least natural conditions

Outside protected areas

Line shows degree of environmental modification
CBD COP9 DECISION 20 (Bonn, 2008)

Annex I: Site Criteria
“Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas” (EBSAs)

1. Uniqueness / rarity
2. Special importance for life-history of species
3. Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species/habitats
4. Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery
5. Biological productivity
6. Biological diversity
7. Naturalness
Annex II: Scientific Guidance For Selecting Areas To Establish A Representative Network Of Marine Protected Areas, Including In Open Ocean Waters And Deep-sea Habitats

1. EBSAs (site criteria)
2. Representativity
3. Connectivity
4. Replication
5. Adequacy / viability
Requests Parties to designate a national focal point for the programme of work on protected areas in support of the Convention’s national focal point to facilitate the effective and coordinated development and implementation of national and regional terrestrial and marine protected area strategies and action plans,
National MPA networks

• the Thai CBD’s national focal point: Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)......2004

• Thailand National Advisory Board on Protected Areas (including MPAs) has been established by MONRE in 2011

• PA Working group
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

**Target 11:** By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
Gulf of Thailand

Andaman Sea

Total Sea areas
~ 350,000 km²

Coastal Area
3,229,380 ha.
The **PA national system**

3 components:

- Areas managed for sustainable use, which may allow extractive uses
- Areas where extractive uses are excluded and other significant human pressures minimized (no-take)
- Sustainable management over the wider marine and coastal environment
Major Laws for MPAs in Thailand

- Areas where extractive uses are excluded and other significant human pressures minimized (no-take zone)

*Fisheries Act 1947* → Marine Fisheries Reserved Area

*National Park Act 1961* → Marine National Parks

*Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act 1992* → Non hunting areas
no-take zones

Fisheries Act 1947

39 Marine Fisheries
Reserved areas
no-take zones
National Park Act 1961

22 Marine National Parks
NOOKOLIBONG NONHUNTING AREA
Seagrass beds
Major Laws for MPAs in Thailand

- II. Areas managed for sustainable use, which may allow extractive uses

Fisheries Act 1947 → Fish Refugia

Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act, 1992 → Environmental Protected Areas

National Forest Reservation Act 1964 → Mangrove Reservation Forest
Chub mackerel’s spawning grounds

Closed areas in some seasons
Environmental Protected Areas

No coral fishing, to prevent or reduce the undesirable impacts of development activities, including urban, industrial and tourism development.)
กฎกระทรวง (พ.ศ. 2535) กำหนดให้พื้นที่บริเวณเกาะสาค เกาะล้าน เกาะครก และน่านน้ำรอบเกาะดังกล่าว รวมทั้งน่านน้ำชายฝั่งเมืองพัทยา จังหวัดชลบุรี บริเวณอ่าวกระทิงลาย อ่าวท้อง และอ่าวพระจันทร์ อ่าวพัทยา และหาดไม้รวก เป็นเขตพื้นที่คุ้มครองสิ่งแวดล้อม
Mangrove Reservation Forest (~ 2,527.5 sq. km)
Ramsar sites : Ramsar Convention
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves

Ranong Mangrove Biosphere Reserve

Total area 246.1 km²

56.9 km²

182.8 km²

6.4 km²
ASEAN Heritage Parks

A new tool for establishment and management of MPA in Thailand

Promulgation and Effectived: 24 June 2015
Marine and coastal resources: Corals
Article 3 Definition Conservation areas:

- Marine National Parks (National Park Act 1961)
- Wildlife Conservation areas (Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act 1992)
- Non-hunting areas (Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act 1992)
- National Forest Reservation areas (National Forest Reservation Act 1964)
- Environmental Protected Areas (Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act, 1992)
- Fishery Reserved areas (Fisheries Act 1947)
Article 20 : Designated MCPAs

1. Pristine marine and coastal areas
2. Abundant and healthy natural areas
3. Ecologically significant areas

These designated areas must be located outside the conservation areas (of Article 3)
Annex I: Site Criteria “Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas” (EBSAs)

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6. Biological diversity
7. Naturalness
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coral reefs In Thai waters</th>
<th>Areas (Km²)</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under Conservation areas</td>
<td>179.14</td>
<td>75.2</td>
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<td>Outside Conservation areas</td>
<td>59.18</td>
<td>24.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>238.33</td>
<td>100</td>
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See details: www.dmcr.go.th
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Conservation areas</th>
<th>Areas (Rai)</th>
<th>Areas (%)</th>
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<td>Marine National Parks</td>
<td>2,473.49</td>
<td>35.23</td>
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<td>National Forest Reservation areas</td>
<td>2,315.10</td>
<td>1.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-hunting areas</td>
<td>1,093.47</td>
<td>0.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation areas</td>
<td>Areas (Km²)</td>
<td>Areas (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildlife Conservation areas</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Fishery Reserve areas</td>
<td>298.87</td>
<td>0.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Protected Areas</td>
<td>72,405.33</td>
<td>48.61</td>
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Zoning: Biosphere reserve

Core area
Buffer zone
Transitional area

Koh Kra, Nakon si Thammarat
Article 23 : Designated regulations to control activities in the MPA (Article 20)

1. Prohibited all activities which can be dangerous/impacted to MPA
2. Measures for preservation, conservation, rehabilitation and area uses
3. Measures for land uses
4. Beach regulations for public uses
5. Other appropriated regulations/measures for the areas
New MPA Managements (the Act included:

- Stakeholder involvement
- Partnerships for management
- Zoning and conflict resolution
- Enforcement and compliance
Thanks
For your attention