

ICRI East Asia Initiative on MPA networks

Provisional Plan 2009-2010

Adopted on 30th March 2009

by participants of the International Coral Reef Marine Protected Area Network Meeting
/4th ICRI East Asia regional Workshop, November 2008, Tokyo, Japan

1. CONTEXT

The participants of the International Coral Reef Marine Protected Area Network Meeting / 4th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop (17 - 19 November, 2008 - Tokyo, Japan) discussed how to enhance and assist regional and national MPA network development in East Asia for coral reefs and related ecosystems to achieve WSSD/CBD 2012 MPA targets, and came up with some suggested actions to be implemented in the next two years (2009-2010).

This document was drafted by the workshop secretariat (Japanese Ministry of the Environment) based on the results of discussion in the workshop, and reviewed and agreed to by the workshop participants. The contents of this document represent the collective view of the workshop participants.

2. OBJECTIVE

The main concept that was agreed to in the workshop, which forms the objective of this Provisional Plan is that, by 2010, the ICRI East Asia partners will:

- 1) Conduct regional level MPA gap analysis on coral reefs and related ecosystems in East Asia region to identify gaps toward achieving WSSD/CBD 2012 MPA targets;
- 2) Address some of the identified gaps that could be filled; and
- 3) Compile suggested actions and strategies to fill the prioritized gaps into ICRI Regional Strategy on MPA networks to support countries in the region to enhance MPA network efforts.

3. DURATION

The duration of this Provisional Plan is from the 2008 workshop (November 2008) until the end of CBD COP-10 (October 2010).

4. IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

ICRI member countries in East Asia and other relevant East Asian governments and organizations interested in this initiative are the main constituents to implement this Provisional Plan.

A working group will be formed as the main driving force to conduct specific tasks in this Provisional Plan. The workshop secretariat (hereafter, secretariat) will serve as the coordinating body and will chair the working group. The

working group will be composed of secretariat, representatives of East Asian governments, interested organizations, and ICRI Secretariat.

5. PROCEDURE OF IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONAL PLAN

The working group will conduct agreed tasks between the workshops in parallel. A mailing-list will be established for communication among the registered working group members. Some of the tasks may be sub-contracted to appropriate entities.

The progress of the working group will be reported and reviewed in the 2009 and 2010 workshops. The participants in the 2008 workshop and other relevant people (e.g., ICRI Secretariat and ICRI Ad Hoc Committee on ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop) will be informed about the workshops and/or circulation of working documents by group e-mails. The ICRIForum (<http://www.icriforum.org/>) will continue to serve as the main repository for the key information about the workshops and relevant documents and the secretariat will keep updating the website.

6. ACTIONS

The workshop participants in 2008 have agreed to conduct the following actions to help achieve the overall objectives. These actions are subjected to review and updating, and additional actions may be added upon discussion and agreement in the 2009 and 2010 workshops.

ACTION #1: Conduct regional MPA gap analysis to identify gaps toward achieving WSSD/CBD 2012 MPA target goals

ACTION #2: Address some of the key gaps that were identified in the 2008 workshop to be filled until 2010. The actions include the followings:

- **ACTION #2-1:** Upgrade regional MPA database
- **ACTION #2-2:** Organize regional workshop for assessing MPA management effectiveness and provide appropriate standards
- **ACTION #2-3:** Review and modify CBD criteria on MPA networks in the context of the region and conservation of coral reefs and related ecosystems
- **ACTION #2-4:** Consider regional level social network mechanism to support MPA development and management
- **ACTION #2-5:** Conduct mapping of coral reefs in East Asia region

ACTION #3: Develop the ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA networks to support countries in the region address the prioritized gaps

ACTION #4: Organize ICRI East Asia Regional Workshops in 2009 and 2010 to follow-up the implementation of the Provisional Plan 2009-2010

ACTION #1: Conduct regional MPA gap analysis to identify gaps toward achieving WSSD/CBD 2012 MPA target goals

Objective

The regional MPA gap analysis will be the pillar activity in the current plan. The objectives of conducting the regional MPA gap analysis are to:

- Identify priority gaps to be filled towards developing MPA networks on coral reefs and related ecosystems in East Asia at regional level;
- To provide the basis for developing the ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA networks which will be a compilation of actions and strategies to fill the identified priority gaps in the region;
- Contribute to CBD for regional MPA gap analysis; and
- Enhance developing national MPA gap analysis in the region.

Structure

- Japan will provide funding to hire a consultant (to be identified) and oversee the project
- Consultant will conduct:
 - Extensive information gathering and review on existing regional/national MPA gap analysis and other relevant information necessary for the gap analysis
 - Conduct gap analysis based on gathered information; and
 - Draft regional MPA gap analysis in consultation with the secretariat and relevant people.
- WorldFish Center (subcontractor for the MPA database) will assist the consultant to conduct the gap analysis using available existing (and part of updated) MPA database.
- East Asian governments and relevant organizations will assist the implementation of the gap analysis by responding to the questionnaire, providing necessary information, and by reviewing the draft gap analysis.

Procedure

Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with CBD Secretariat on regional level MPA gap analysis and In-depth review to clarify requirements • Identify consultant • TOR of the consultant and draft outline to be ready and contract with the consultant finalized 	secretariat	March 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct information gathering and review of existing MPA gap analysis and other relevant information 	consultant	May 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial analysis to be undertaken based on gathered information and MPA database 	consultant, WorldFish Center	August 2009

• Draft gap analysis to be submitted to and reviewed at the 2009 workshop	2009 workshop participants	Nov - Dec 2009
• Draft to be agreed and finalized	2008 & 2009 workshop participants	March 2010
• Launch the regional gap analysis at the CBD COP-10	secretariat	October 2010

ACTION #2: Address some of the key gaps that were identified in the 2008 workshop to be filled until 2010

ACTION #2-1: Upgrade regional MPA database

Gaps to be filled

Existing MPA databases (global/ regional/ national) are not that effectively used, fully covering the MPAs in the region; and readily useful for MPA/MPA network development and management on coral reefs and related ecosystems.

Objective

The objectives of upgrading the existing regional MPA database are to:

- Support countries in the region on MPA establishment and management by upgrading the contents and functions of the existing MPA database “Coral Reef MPAs of East Asia and Micronesia”, and
- Support implementation of the regional MPA gap analysis (ACTION #1).

The target region will be East Asia. Possibility of inclusion of Micronesia will be considered and determined by the secretariat and WorldFish Center.

Structure

- Japan will provide main funding and oversee the project, and subcontract with the WorldFish Center /ReefBase (as agreed to in 2008 workshop).
- The WorldFish Center will conduct information gathering, upgrade the MPA database, and associated tasks in consultation with the secretariat.
- Relevant governments and organizations will assist the project by appointing appropriate MPA data holders and providing and verifying the data as requested from the WorldFish Center or the secretariat.

Items for upgrade

- The items for upgrading the MPA database will be considered by the secretariat and WorldFish Center based on

the list of potential items identified by Group 3 of the 2008 workshop, taking into account the need, feasibility, and use in the MPA gap analysis.

- The proposed contents for upgrade will be discussed and agreed to (finalized) by the working group

Procedure

Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
Draft plan to be completed	secretariat, WorldFish Center	March 2009
Items for upgrade and development plan to be agreed	Working group	March 2009
Contract to be concluded	secretariat, WorldFish Center	March 2009
Request for data submission and verification to relevant countries and organizations	WorldFish Center, secretariat	April 2009
Progress to be reported and reviewed in the 2009 workshop	workshop participants	Nov - Dec 2009
Upgrade of the MPA database finalized	WorldFish Center	March 2010
Launch the regional MPA database at the CBD COP-10	secretariat	October 2010

ACTION #2-2: Organize regional workshop for assessing MPA management effectiveness and provide appropriate standards

Gaps to be filled

MPA management effectiveness is an important way to assess the degree to which the MPAs are managed to achieve its goals and objectives, and could lead to improved MPA planning and management. But most of the countries in the region don't have standards to assess their MPA's management effectiveness and the status is mostly unknown.

Objective

The objective of organizing the regional workshop for assessment of MPA management effectiveness (hereafter MME workshop) and providing the suggested standard are to:

- Identify an appropriate standard of MPA management effectiveness at regional/ national/ site level in East Asia on coral reefs and related ecosystems.
- Provide countries in the region a suggested standard for their consideration and/or adoption as their national standard.

Structure

- The workshop is expected to be held at the East Asia Seas Congress 2009 (Manila, 23-27 Nov 2009) as a side event of the Congress. The expected participants in the workshop are the participants in the Congress.
- Secretariat will liaise with the PEMSEA Secretariat (organizer of the Congress) about possibility of organizing such a side event at the Congress.
- The working group will:
 - Identify the lead for this work
 - Conduct review on existing protocols and standards of MPA management effectiveness (e.g., IUCN, WorldBank)
 - Prepare workshop materials (e.g., optional MPA management effectiveness standards)
 - Explore and secure funding to organize the workshop
 - Identify organizer and chair of the workshop
 - Plan details of the workshop (agenda, case study presenter, etc.)

Procedure

Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible holding of the workshop at the East Asia Seas Congress 2009 to be clarified 	secretariat	March 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review on existing protocols and standards to be completed • Funding to be clarified 	working group	April 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft proposal for the MME workshop to be completed and circulated to relevant people for comments 	working group	June 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessary arrangement to organize the MME workshop completed 	working group	August 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MME workshop to be held in the East Asia Seas Congress 2009 	EASC 2009 participants	November 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Result of the MME workshop reported to the 2009 workshop and draft proposed MPA management effectiveness standard to be reviewed and agreed (Note: When the 2009 workshop will be held before the congress, the review and decision will take place at 2010 workshop) 	workshop participants	Nov - Dec 2009

ACTION #2-3: Review and modify CBD criteria on MPA networks in the context of the region and conservation of coral reefs and related ecosystems

Gaps to be filled

CBD has adopted the “Scientific guidance for selecting areas to establish a representative network of marine protected areas, including in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats” (COP 9 Decision IX/20). But this criteria was found to be not readily applicable for coral reefs and related ecosystems and in East Asia by the participants of the 2008 workshop, and such recommended criteria is lacking.

Objective

The objective of reviewing and modifying the CBD criteria on MPA networks are to:

- Clarify the suggested criteria of MPA networks in East Asia region on coral reefs and related ecosystems based on CBD’s criteria.
- Provide countries in the region with a suggested criteria for their consideration and reflection to their national policies on MPA network development.

Structure

- The working group will:
 - Identify the lead for this work
 - Undertake a review on existing MPA network criteria and draft suggested modification of CBD criteria
- The participants in 2009 workshop will consider, and if appropriate, adopt the draft proposed modification.

Procedure

Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
• Review of existing criteria on MPA networks (i.e., CBD, IUCN) completed	working group	April 2009
• Draft proposed modification of the CBD criteria to be completed based on the result of the review	working group	June 2009
• Draft to be circulated for comments among relevant people and updated	working group	August 2009
• Updated draft to be discussed and agreed in the 2009 workshop	workshop participants	Nov - Dec 2009

**ACTION #2-4: Consider regional level social network mechanism
to support MPA development and management**

Gaps to be filled

There are no functional regional level social networks to build capacity and share information for MPA development and management.

Objective

- Consider the need, type, level and mechanism of appropriate regional level social network to support MPA development and management
- Propose appropriate regional level social network mechanism and prepare for its launch and operation

Structure

- The working group will:
 - Identify the lead for this work
 - Discuss and prepare a draft proposal for possible regional mechanism of MPA social network for consultation in the 2009 workshop
- The participants in 2009 workshop will consider, and if appropriate, adopt the draft proposal.

Procedure

Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft proposal including the followings to be completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Need for regional social network ➢ Type and level of necessary network ➢ Potential mechanism to operate and maintain the network including the use of existing networks (coordinator, funding, role, etc.) ➢ How to launch the network 	working group	August 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft proposal circulated for comments among relevant people and updated 	working group	October 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated draft proposal discussed and the way forward agreed in the 2009 workshop 	workshop participants	Nov - Dec 2009

ACTION #2-5: Conduct mapping of coral reefs in East Asia region

Gaps to be filled

Accurate spatial distribution of coral reefs and other associated ecosystems will serve as key information for planning and managing MPAs/MPA networks to protect these ecosystems. But this information is very limited and not readily available in the region.

Objective

- Reveal the latest spatial distribution of live corals and other key ecosystems in East Asia using satellite images and technique proposed by the National Institute of Environment Studies, Japan.
- Provide the map for the use in the regional MPA gap analysis (ACTION #1).

The use of the map, including reflection in the MPA database (ACTION #2-1), will be considered by the working group.

Structure

- Japan will subcontract appropriate body to conduct the coral reef mapping of East Asia
- The subcontractor will conduct the work of the mapping and submit the completed map to Japan
- WorldFish Center will consider technical application of the map on ReefGIS, and if applicable, apply the layer in the MPA database

Procedure

Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
• Coverage of Japan's coral reefs completed	subcontractor	March 2009
• Technical application of the mapping as one of the layer in ReefGIS clarified	WorldFish Center	May 2009
• Progress to be reported, and the use and application of the map to be discussed in the 2009 workshop	subcontractor, workshop participants	Nov - Dec 2009
• Coverage of other countries in East Asia completed (Note: Coverage of the entire region may not be achieved due to limitation of time and resources under current project)	subcontractor	March 2010

**ACTION #3: Develop the ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA networks
to support countries in the region address the prioritized gaps**

Objective

Objectives of developing the regional strategy are to:

- Identify short term action plans and long term strategies to fill the priority gaps (identified from the regional MPA gap analysis and workshops in 2008 and 2009, excluding ACTION #2) in East Asia region to help achieve committed WSSD/CBD 2012 MPA target on coral reefs and related ecosystems
- Provide to countries in the region such a shared strategy for consideration and reflection to their national action plan on MPA networks
- Identify suggestions from the region on post 2012 MPA network target and provide to CBD

The regional strategy will not seek additional high level commitments from governments but focus on actual actions and realistic guidance.

Structure

- Secretariat will undertake a review on existing regional strategies and action plans in the context of ICRI and MPA networks and draft the regional strategy based on inputs from the MPA gap analysis and discussion in the 2008 workshop
- The consultant who will undertake the MPA gap analysis will provide achievements and suggestions to the secretariat for reflection in the regional strategy
- East Asian governments and other relevant bodies will review the draft regional strategy and adopt it as the suggested actions

Specifications

- The tentative title of the regional strategy will be “ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA networks”
- It will be composed of: (a) short-term action plan targeted until 2012, and (b) long-term strategy targeted until 2020
- The length of the document will be maximum of 10 pages

Procedure

Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
Review of existing policy documents completed	secretariat	March 2009
Concept and outline of the regional strategy to be proposed at next ICRI General Meeting (April 2009, Thailand)	secretariat	April 2009
Initial draft regional strategy to be ready for review (circulate for comments)	secretariat	October 2009

Updated draft to be discussed in the 2009 workshop	workshop participants	Nov - Dec 2009
Final draft to be agreed in the 2010 workshop	workshop participants	Mid 2010
Launched the regional strategy at the CBD COP-10	secretariat	October 2010

**ACTION #4: Organize ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop in 2009 and 2010
to follow-up the implementation of the Provisional Plan 2009-2010**

Objectives

The workshops will be organized in 2009 and 2010, respectively, with objectives to:

- Follow up the outcomes from the workshop in 2008 particularly on the progress of the Provisional Plan 2009-2010 to make sure that the plans are on track;
- Continue detailed discussion and planning on items that needs further discussion; and
- Continue face-to-face discussion and networking among participants, and increase collaboration and understanding on developing MPA networks on coral reefs and related ecosystems in East Asia.

Form of the meeting

- The meetings in 2009 and 2010 will take the form of the ICRI Regional Workshop and the particular target region will be East Asia. However, the workshop will not limit participation from other regions nor discussion about inter-regional collaboration, ecological connectivity, etc.
- The workshop in 2009 will be the 5th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop, and the one in 2010 be the 6th ICRI East Asia Regional Workshop.
- The 2009 and/or 2010 meetings may be organized in conjunction with or as part of other relevant meetings or events.

Time and location

- Tentative candidate location for the 2009 workshop is in Vietnam. The tentative possible time is November to December 2009. Detailed time and location will be discussed and determined among the secretariat and government of Vietnam, and to be announced to relevant people.
- Tentative candidate location for the 2010 workshop is in Thailand. It is assumed that it will be held back-to-back with the 2nd Asia-Pacific Coral Reef Symposium which is tentatively due on June 2010. The possibility as well as time and location will be discussed among the secretariat and government of Thailand, and to be announced at the 2009 workshop.

Structure

- Japan (Ministry of the Environment) and ICRI Secretariat will continue to co-host the meetings in 2009 and 2010 together with the local host government. Other co-host may join in the organizing structure depending on the situation.
- Japan will continue to provide secretariat functions to undertake logistics to prepare and organize the workshops in consultation with the local host government, workshop co-chairs & facilitators, and ICRI Secretariat.

Funding

- Japan will seek to secure funding to organize the workshop continuously in 2009 and 2010, including costs related to administration of the meeting, logistics and travel support for some participants. The availability of such funding is subject to determination of Japanese governmental budget of each fiscal year (which starts from April every year).
- Other governments and organizations are encouraged to consider supporting the workshop, as well as to seek self-funding for the travel and accommodation to attend these workshops.

Co-chair and facilitators

The co-chairs for the plenary meeting and facilitators for the breakout sessions for the 2009 and 2010 workshops will be determined by the workshop's secretariat and hosting government(s) upon consultation with the working group.

Expected participants

Expected participants in both workshops in 2009 and 2010 are, ICRI members, representatives of other relevant East Asian governments, organizations, programs, local managers and stakeholders.

Possible agenda and outcomes of 2009 workshop

Agenda of 2009 workshop may include the following:

- Review of progress from 2008 workshop (status of implementation of the Provisional Plan 2009-2010 / report back from the working group)
 - Review of Provisional Plan 2009-2010 (any suggested amendments or additions)
 - Draft regional MPA gap analysis
 - Draft ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA Networks
 - Draft proposed modification of CBD's criteria on MPA networks (seek adoption)
 - Progress report of the MPA database
 - Progress report of the coral reef mapping
 - Result of the regional workshop for assessment of MPA management effectiveness
 - Draft proposed MPA management effectiveness standard at regional /national/ site level (seek adoption)

- Result of consideration of the need and type of regional social MPA networks
- Case study presentations
 - Local case studies
 - Progress report of MPA network development from East Asian countries (if there are any highlights)
 - Thematic case studies on specific topics
- Parallel breakout session (if necessary)
- Planning of side event (launch of the MPA gap analysis, regional strategy, MPA database, etc.) at CBD COP-10
- Next workshop in 2010 (i.e., time, location, provisional agenda, expected outcomes, etc.)
- Other outstanding matters (Below items were proposed as potential topics for consideration at the 2008 workshop)
 - Developing the long-term strategic plan for “Training and capacity building programs for managers to improve operation of effective MPAs”
 - Building a network of collaboration for science based actions to fill the gap of the lack of available scientific information required for ecosystem based management

Expected outcomes from 2009 workshop may include:

- Proposed revision of Provisional Plan 2009-2010
- Proposed revision of draft regional MPA gap analysis
- Proposed revision of draft ICRI East Asia Regional Strategy on MPA networks
- Proposed modification of CBD’s criteria on MPA networks
- TOR of the working group 2009-2010
- Proposal for the next 2010 workshop (provisional agenda, time and location, etc.)

Possible agenda and outcomes of 2010 workshop

Agenda of 2010 workshop may include the following:

- Review of progress from 2009 workshop (status of implementation of the Provisional Plan 2009-2010 / report back from the working group)
 - Finalized regional MPA gap analysis
 - Final draft ICRI Regional Strategy on MPA networks (seek adoption)
 - Finalized MPA database
 - Finalized coral reef mapping
 - Proposal for regional network (seek adoption)
 - Status of preparation for the side event in CBD COP-10
- Case study presentations

- Local case studies
- Progress report of MPA network development from East Asian countries (if there are any high lights)
- Thematic case studies on specific topics
- Parallel breakout session (if necessary)
- TOR of the side event at CBD COP-10
- Possible continuity of future regional collaboration