

Management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Vietnam: *Issues and Policy Implications*

Vietnam Development Forum Workshop

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Content

- Theoretical perspective of MPA management
- Practical perspective: Management of MPAs in Vietnam

Part I: Theoretical perspective of MPA management

1. The situation of marine resources
2. MPA as a tool to marine resource management
3. Approaches to MPA management
4. Types of MPA management

The situation of marine resources

- High economic value in terms of food supply, job creation, exports, tourism...
- Unsustainable exploitation: over fishing, destructive fishing practices, reduction in marine productivity, loss of biodiversity, coastal environmental pollution ... resulting from:
 - Open access system or “common property”
 - Lack of integrated legal framework at the national and local levels
 - Low level of public awareness
 - Economic hardship in coastal communities

MPA as a tool to marine resource management (1)

1. MPA

- **Concept:** (Vietnam) “the designated sea with associated flora, fauna of international and national value and importance in terms of science, education, tourism, recreation which is protected and managed under MPA regulations”
- **Classification:**
 - National Park
 - Habitat/Species Management Area
 - Managed Aquatic Resource Protected Area
- **Functional sub-areas:**
 - Strict protection area (no-fishing area)
 - Ecosystem conservation area
 - Managed exploitation area

MPA as a tool to marine resource management (2)

2. MPA as a management tool

➤ Internal benefits of MPA

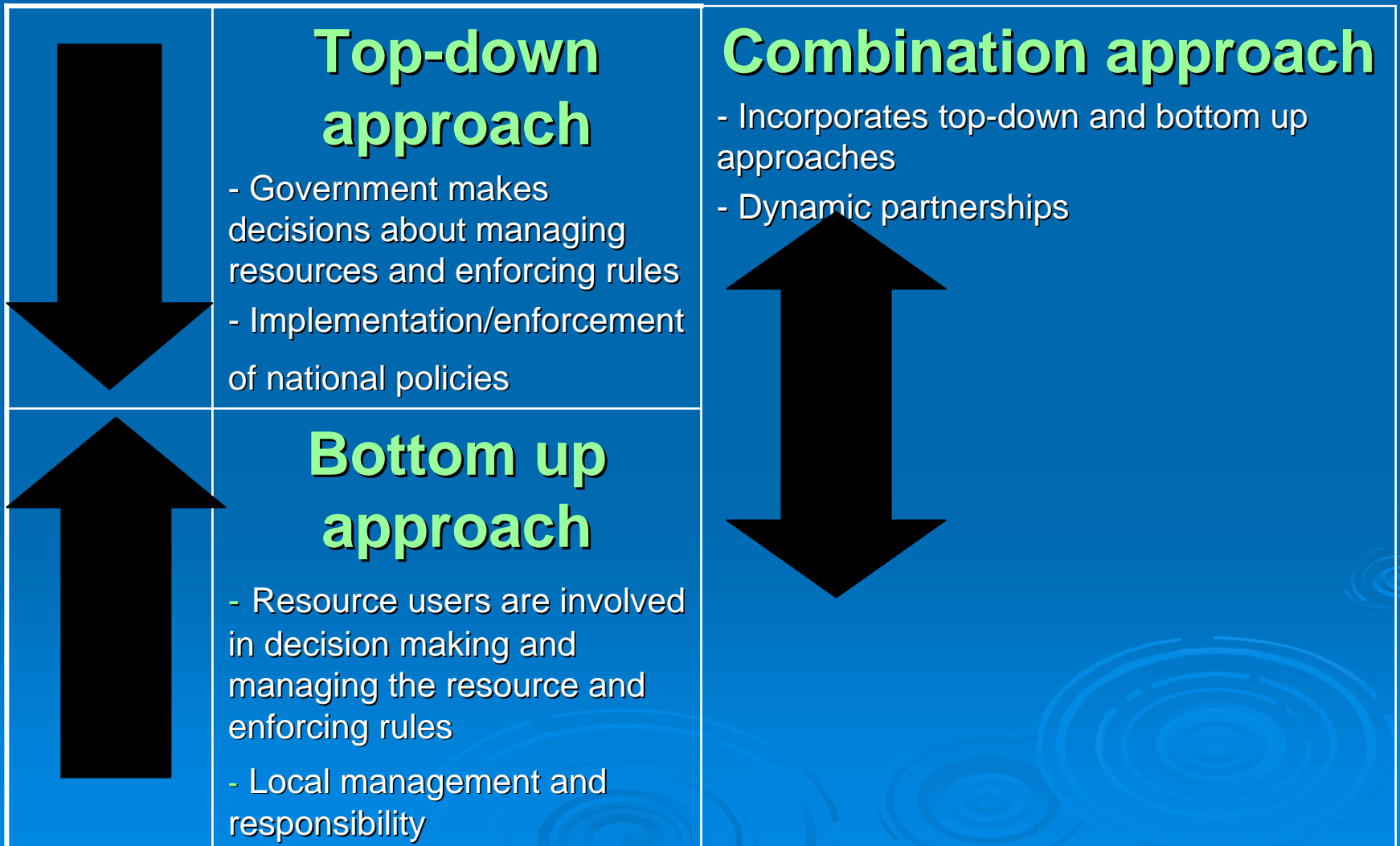
- Protection of marine habitats and species, conservation of marine biodiversity and restoration of fisheries stocks
- Minimization of conflicts among diverse resource users

➤ External benefits of MPA (spillover benefits)

- Protection of traditional livelihoods and support to local fishery development in middle and long terms
- Contribution to poverty reduction in coastal areas

MPA is considered to be
Nature's Investment Bank

Approaches to MPA management



Types of MPA management (1)

| Approaches to MPA management | Types of MPA management |
|------------------------------|--|
| Top-down approach | <h2 data-bbox="883 394 1595 454">Centralized management</h2> <ul data-bbox="651 476 1759 739" style="list-style-type: none">- Characterized by centralized planning and authority- Decisions are consistent with national legal framework for coastal management- Addresses connections between development, human activities, biophysical processes and sectoral activities |
| Bottom-up approach | <h2 data-bbox="784 776 1694 836">Community-based management</h2> <ul data-bbox="651 859 1816 1059" style="list-style-type: none">- Local resource users and community members are involved in active management and responsibility for coastal resources- If given responsibility, local resource users will sustainably manage their resources and enforce community-derived rules. |
| Combination approach | <h2 data-bbox="997 1098 1477 1158">Co-management</h2> <ul data-bbox="651 1180 1824 1380" style="list-style-type: none">- Governments and communities share responsibility and work together in dynamic partnerships.- Government 's responsibility for overall policy; local community's responsibility for to day-to-day management |

Types of MPA management (2)

The differences between the three types of management are: (Robert S. Pomeroy, John E. Parks, Lani M. Watson (2004))

- the degree of *stakeholder participation* in the management process and
- the location of *management authority and responsibility* between stakeholders

Types of MPA management (3)

| <i>Differences</i> | Centralized management | Community-based management | Co-management |
|--|---|---|--|
| <i>Local stakeholder participation</i> | Limited | High | High |
| <i>Management authority and responsibility</i> | are located in a central or government agency | are located at the community level/organization | are shared between government and local stakeholders |

Types of MPA management (4): Advantages and Disadvantages

| | Centralized management | Community-based management | Co-management |
|----------------------|---|---|--|
| <i>Advantages</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - simple | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsive to community needs - A more united voice of community - Reduction of conflicts within communities and within neighboring communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporating advantages of government agencies (scientific and technical knowledge) and community (traditional knowledge) |
| <i>Disadvantages</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inefficient under budget and human resource constraints | | |

What type of management is suitable for MPA?

- **Centralized management** does not work well for MPA management:
 - Communities simply ignore rules and regulations
 - MPA is so vast to maintain strict control under budget and human resource constraints
- **Community-based management** is more likely to succeed:
 - Resource users are involved in decision-making about their resources
 - Resource users are given authority to manage their resources
- In many MPAs, best results have been obtained through a **co-management**:
 - Government (local) is always involved in the management process.

Part II: Practical perspective: Management of MPAs in Vietnam

1. Vietnam Policy on Marine Conservation
2. Network of MPAs in Vietnam
3. Management of MPAs in Vietnam
 - Issues
 - Policy implications

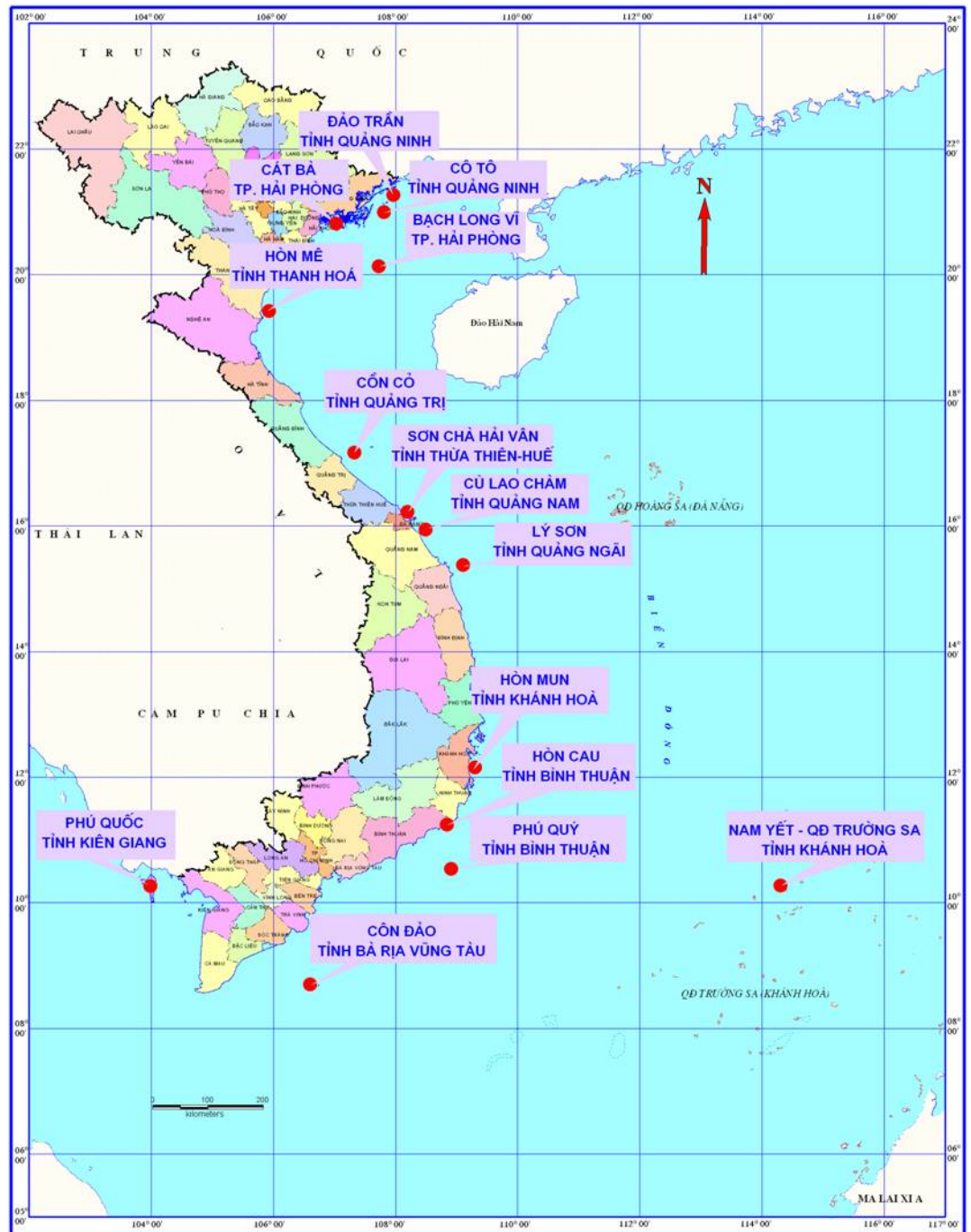
VN Policy on Marine Conservation

- National Action Plan on Biodiversity (1995) with main focus on marine conservation and coastal development
- Master plan of a network of 15 MPAs proposed by MOSTE (1998-1999)
- ADB Project on Coastal and Marine Environmental Management in the South China Sea: A proposal of 30 MPAs (1999)
- A proposal of national MPAs Network (15 MPAs) submitted by former MoFi to PM for approval (2000)
- Vietnam Agenda 21 (2004)
- Fishery Law (2004): Chapter 2 on MPA
- Decree 57 (2008): Regulation on Management of MPAs of international and National Importance
- Decree 25 (2009): Integrated Management of Marine Resource and Environment
- A proposal of national MPAs Network (15 MPAs) submitted by MARD to PM for approval (2009)

Network of MPAs in Vietnam (1)

- A national network of 15 MPAs proposed by MARD and submitted to PM for approval (2009)
- Total proposed area: 308.160 ha

BẢN ĐỒ MẠNG LƯỚI CÁC KHU BẢO TỒN BIỂN (ĐỀ XUẤT) Ở VIỆT NAM



Network of MPAs in Vietnam (2)

1. Nationally established MPAs

| MPA | Year of establishment | Type of MPA |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Nha Trang Bay (Khanh Hoa) | 2001 | National Park |
| 2. Cu Lao Cham (Quang Nam) | 2004 | National Park |
| 3. Phu Quoc (Kien Giang) | 2007 | National Park |
| 4. Con Co (Quang Tri) | 2008 | Species/Habitat Protected Area |

Network of MPAs in Vietnam (3)

2. Locally established MPA

Trao Reef MPA (Khanh Hoa province)

- established in 2008 by efforts of Van Ninh CPC and with the support of MCD Vietnam
- not in the list of the proposed national MPA network
- the first LMMA – Locally Managed Marine Area in Vietnam

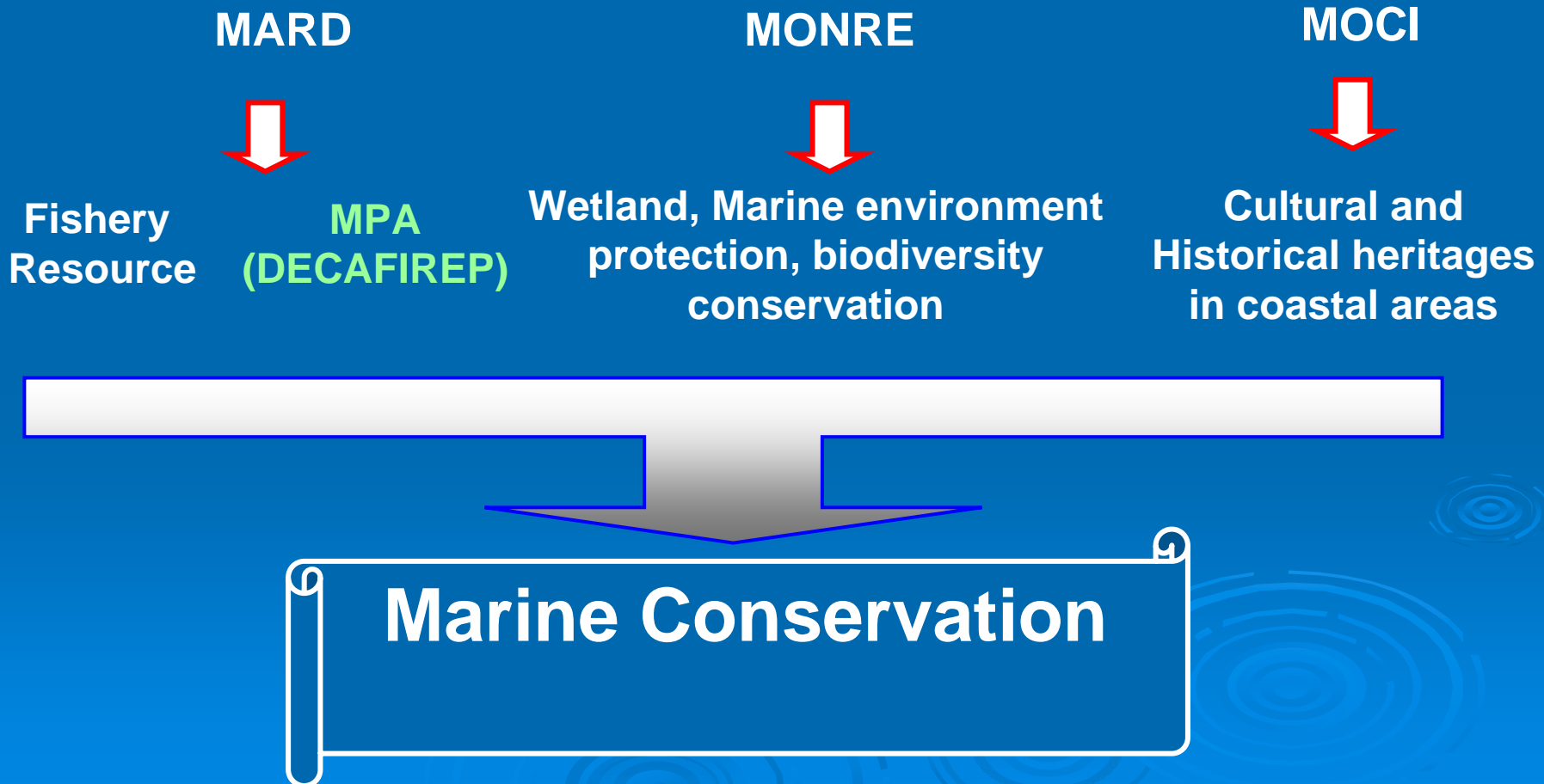
Management of MPAs in Vietnam (1)

1. Central management

- Before 2007
 - MARD: Forest Protected Areas
 - MoFI: Marine Protected Areas
 - MONRE: Wetland Protected Areas
- After 2007: (mergence of MoFi into MARD)
 - MARD: Forest and Marine Management
 - MONRE: Wetland Management
 - VASI (MONRE): Integrated Management of Seas and Islands
 - **DECAFIREP: MPA Management**
 - Support MARD on developing regulations on classification of MPAs
 - Provision of a guidance for developing management regulations of locally managed MPAs
 - Management of national MPAs and in-land water protected areas of international and national importance

Management of MPAs in Vietnam (2)

1. Central Management (continued)



Management of MPAs in Vietnam (3)

2. Local management: Co-management model

➤ *Local government*

- **Represented by MPA Management Board**
 - Independent unit under DARD governance
 - Annual budget from provincial level
 - Responsible for overall policy

➤ *Local community*

- **Represented by CBO (Community-Based Organization)**
 - Including representatives from different interest groups
 - No administration or financial support
 - Responsible for day-to-day management activities

Management of MPAs in Vietnam (4)

2. Local management: Co-management model

| Community organization for MPA management - CBO | Nha Trang Bay | Cham Island |
|---|--|--|
| Type | Village Conservation Units - VCUs | MPA Club |
| Functions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- conservation activities- AIG work- a bridge between community and MPA Management Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- facilitates meetings and discussions- awareness raising- vocational training- AIG development |
| Current status | no administration or financial support to VCUs | no administration or financial support to MPA Club |

Management of MPAs in Vietnam (5)

2. Local management: Co-management model

- Trao Reef LMMA

- Local authorities (district level) and Van Hung community share responsibility for marine resource management and MPA management
- Little budget from district government (technical and financial supports from MCD Vietnam)

Issues and Policy Implications (1)

1. Central management

1.1. *Issues*

- Overlaps and unclear responsibility of government agencies on marine management
 - Separate management of marine resources and marine biodiversity and environment
 - Poor linkage MPA with integrated management of seas and islands
- Lack of human resources and management capacity
- Lack of an official approval of the national MPA network

1.2. *Policy implications*

- One agency responsible for MPA management as a whole, including marine environment and marine resource
- Capacity building for MPA managers in MPA management
- Official approval of the national MPA network

Issues and Policy implications (2)

2. Local management: Co-management model

2.1. Issues

➤ Local government

- Unclear allocation of management authority and responsibility
- Lack of local funding for MPA management

➤ Local community

- Legal incentive to participation: lack of legal recognition of community management
- Economic incentive to participation: Inequitable distribution of costs and benefits of conservation
 - Opportunity cost of conservation/protection burdened by affected communities in the short term
 - Benefits to part of people who do not live in MPAs

Issues and Policy implications (3)

2. Local management: Co-management model

2.2. Policy Implications

➤ Local government

- Clear allocation of management authority and responsibility
- Sustainable finance: local self financing of MPAs
 - Building up funds: reliable, sufficient and sustainable funds
 - Managing funds

➤ Local community

- Legal incentive: legal recognition of CBO
- Economic incentives to participation: equitable distribution of costs and benefits
 - Provision of relevant livelihoods interventions
 - Compensation for communities' losses

Next research topic ...

How to assess management effectiveness of MPA?

- Theoretical framework
- Application for a practical case of MPA in Vietnam

Appendix

Table 1: List of proposed national MPAs to be established till 2015

| | Type of MPA | In-land area (ha) | Marine area (ha) |
|------------|--|-------------------|------------------|
| I | National Park | | |
| 1 | Cat Ba (Hai Phong) | 9,800 | 10,900 |
| 2 | Cu Lao Cham (Quang Nam) | 1,544 | 5,175 |
| 3 | Nha Trang Bay (Khanh Hoa) | 3,000 | 12,000 |
| 4 | Con Dao (Ba Ria-Vung Tau) | 6,400 | 23,000 |
| 5 | Phu Quoc (Kien Giang) | 14,957 | 18,700 |
| II | Species/habitat Protected Area | | |
| 6 | Tran Island (Quang Ninh) | 300 | 3,900 |
| 7 | Co To (Quang Ninh) | 3,850 | 4,000 |
| 8 | Hai Van-Son Tra (Thua Thien-Hue-Da Nang) | 9,413 | 7,626 |
| 9 | Nam Yet (Khanh Hoa) | 15,000 | 20,000 |
| 10 | Hon Cau (Binh Thuan) | 110 | 12,390 |
| 11 | Con Co (Quang Tri) | 350 | 2,140 |
| III | Marine Resource Reserve | | |
| 12 | Bach Long Vy (Hai Phong) | 250 | 89,750 |
| 13 | Hon Me (Thanh Hoa) | 500 | 6,200 |
| 14 | Ly Son (Quang Ngai) | 812 | 7,113 |
| 15 | Phu Quy (Binh Thuan) | 2,300 | 16,680 |
| | Total | 68,586 | 239,574 |

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1. Robert S. Pomeroy, John E. Parks, Lani M. Watson (2004) “How is your MPA doing: A Guide book of Natural and Social indicators for Evaluating Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness”. Published by IUCN.
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Thank you for your attention!

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