



WCPA-MARINE/WWF Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness Initiative (MPA-MEI)

<http://effectiveMPA.noaa.gov>



WELCOME! And thank you for picking up this CD, which provides four Demonstration Cases from different Marine Protected Areas around the world that participated in the WCPA-Marine/WWF MPA Management Effectiveness Initiative (MPA MEI).

Demonstration MPAs: Galapagos Marine Reserve, Ecuador
Lenger Island Marine Protected Area, F.S. Micronesia
Mafia Island Marine Park, Tanzania
Miramare Natural Marine Reserve, Italy

WHY EVALUATE MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS IN MPAs?

Broad expectations have been placed on MPAs to protect marine biodiversity and ecosystem function, to reduce poverty, and to provide for healthier coastal communities with a strong foundation for economic growth. Many challenges face the MPAs and the achievement of goals and objectives due to insufficient financial and technical resources, lack of trained staff, or lack of data for management decisions. Assessing management effectiveness can demonstrate long-term positive impacts on biodiversity and the human communities that depend on these resources by documenting how management actions meet goals and objectives. This can lead to improved project planning, accountability, and adaptive management.

In 2001, the MPA Management Effectiveness Initiative was launched to improve the management of marine protected areas by providing managers, planners and other decision-makers with methods for measuring indicators of effectiveness at MPA sites. This global initiative is led by a partnership between the IUCN/WCPA-Marine and WWF, with support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the U.S. NOAA's National Ocean Service.

A NEW TOOL FOR MPA MANAGERS

How is Your MPA Doing? A Guidebook of Natural and Social Indicators for Evaluating Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness

This guidebook was produced over a 3-year period, with extensive collaboration from MPA experts and field-tested at eighteen pilot sites (See Figure 1). It was designed to provide coastal and marine protected area managers with information to help manage MPAs effectively. It does this by providing a field-tested, step-by-step process to measure biophysical, socioeconomic and governance indicators to evaluate whether management strategies are accomplishing the MPA goals and objectives. Armed with the results and knowledge that are generated from the evaluation process over time, managers and staff will be able to learn and adapt the activities and management of their MPA, thereby continually improving on its impact and concretely documenting the positive results.

The process outlined in the guidebook presents a flexible approach that can be used in many types of MPAs, whether multiple use areas or no-take areas, and depending on their goals and objectives. The guidebook allows the user to best match the needs, aims, and capacity of their MPA with the following activities: (1) selecting a set of relevant and feasible indicators to be measured that match the goals and objectives of the MPA, (2) developing a realistic plan required to complete the evaluation, and (3) measuring the indicators and collecting necessary information to conduct the evaluation, and 4) communicating the results for decision-makers and stakeholders to adapt MPA management.

The guidebook, lessons learned from pilot sites, and the four demonstration MPAs included in this CD will be presented at the Worlds Park Congress in Durban, South Africa, September 2003. WCPA-Marine has organized a full day session to share experiences of MPAs that have implemented management effectiveness evaluations and to identify actions to build capacity for all MPAs. The guidebook will be available in the Fall of 2003.

To obtain a copy of the guidebook, How is Your MPA Doing?

Visit: <http://www.iucn.org/bookstore>

Email: books@iucn.org

Figure 1. Participating Pilot MPAs

