

Introducing the regional action plan (RAP) to strengthen a resilient network of effective marine protected areas in southeast asia: 2002 - 2012



An aerial photograph of a coastal village. The village is built on a sandy peninsula that curves around a rocky, reddish-brown headland. The houses are small and densely packed, with many having dark, gabled roofs. The water is clear, showing a shallow reef flat with numerous small boats and structures. The background shows a deep blue ocean with a visible reef edge.

The World Commission
on Protected Areas
South East Asia - Marine
Working Group
(WCPA- SEA Marine)

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The Nature Conservancy 

SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH



Japan Fund for Global Environment



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partnership, participation and vision

a network of effective marine protected areas



Call to Action

I am very pleased with the outcome of this regional action plan for the strengthening of a resilient network of marine protected areas in Southeast Asia. The region includes the global epicenter of marine species diversity. It contains more than one third of all the world's coral reefs and inhabits over 600 of the world's 800 or so reef-building coral species. In addition, Southeast Asia includes critical habitats for many endangered marine species, such as marine turtles, whales, dolphins and the dugongs. It is also a region with intense marine resource use, and is well-positioned for significant economic growth in the future, which is likely to further increase the human pressure on the marine environment. The establishment of Marine Protected Area network is widely considered as the most effective way to protect the ocean's bio-diversity and economic values.

Indonesia is well known as the largest archipelagic country in the world located in the heart of the "Coral Triangle". About two-third of the country's territory (5.8 million km²) is marine waters home to more than 17500 islands and 81.000 km of coastlines. With its mega marine biodiversity, Indonesia realizes its global responsibility towards the development of a resilient network of marine protected areas which is critical to protect bio-diversity, sustain coastal fisheries, nature based marine tourism and coastal protection. It is very important to realize that we no longer looking at an endless untapped coastal fisheries resources but instead start implementing the mechanisms to manage and protect those resources for future generations.

The Department of Marine Affairs and Fisheries in Indonesia is very committed to support marine conservation

policies and is taking the lead in developing a national taskforce on MPAs in Indonesia and heads up a trust fund in support of a network of MPAs in Indonesia. The establishment of WCPA Southeast Asia (SEA) Marine working Group is timely and appropriate to facilitate the networking of MPAs practitioners throughout the ASEAN region.

The WCPA SEA Marine Regional Action Plan (RAP) describes a comprehensive strategy and action that will integrate the implementation of similar initiatives in the region. With a dedicated secretariat to support the working group, I am confident that this RAP will encourage collaboration among all MPAs practitioners in the region to manage the marine resources in a sustainable way.

I am committed to support this plan in Indonesia and in the region and like to call upon individuals, government and non-government organizations, and donor agencies to support and participate in the implementation of the RAP and join efforts together to protect the global marine bio-diversity and ensure sustainable fisheries.

Congratulations to all the members of this working group who contributed to this innovative, inspiring and action oriented plan.

Yours truly,

Prof. Dr. Rokhmin Dahuri
Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Republic of Indonesia

The IUCN's World Commission of Protected Areas (WCPA) is a global network of protected area specialists and managers, with over 1,400 members in 160 countries. The WCPA's goal is to *promote the development of a comprehensive and effective system of protected areas worldwide, as a key mechanism for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. WCPA is organized regionally and looks to achieve these objectives by providing a forum for the exchange of information and experience on issues and problems of mutual concern.*

Preface

It is with great pleasure that I, as chairperson of the WCPA Southeast Asia Region, can announce a major achievement of our Marine Working Group with the production of the Regional Action Plan to Strengthen a Resilient Network of Effective Marine Protected Areas in Southeast Asia: 2002-2012. This action-orientated Regional Action Plan (also referred to as the 'RAP') has come about through an impressive consultative approach and includes input from a very significant number of the Southeast Asia's marine experts and organizations, including (inter)governmental agencies, universities and research institutes, national and international NGOs, civil society and many other stakeholders. The RAP has benefited tremendously from these varied contributions, and as a result is a comprehensive and inherently collaborative framework intended to 'co-ordinate, guide and implement existing and new plans of action related to the strengthening and networking of representative Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Southeast Asia.

The RAP's implementation will be conducted in several phases by its WCPA members and is presented here as a 'living document' - it will remain flexible in meeting new challenges in the next decade. In particular the RAP will seek to promote the following functions and goals of MPAs:

- Conservation of biodiversity.**
- Sustainable fisheries.**
- Sustainable nature-based tourism.**
- Integrated coastal management.**

The WCPA Southeast Asia Marine Working Group has set 2012 as the target date for designation of a Southeast Asia MPA network. Importantly, this is the same year set by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development to complete the establishment of a global network of MPAs. The RAP's initial portfolio of proposals consists of 15 action-oriented projects (three from each RAP theme) as developed through several regional meetings and expert workshops. Performance will be measured by the delivery of outputs and the achievement of the RAP's objectives.

In closing, I want to thank Rili Djohani, Chair of the WCPA Southeast Asia Marine Working Group as well as all its members who put so much effort into the RAP for this tangible outcome. The RAP will surely initiate and foster further collaboration for sustainable marine resource management amongst all practitioners in our region.

Therefore, I would recommend to all stakeholders, both individuals and organizations, from MPA practitioners to researchers in the field, to government and private funding institutes, to give their support, and most importantly to participate in the RAP. Together we can ensure its effective implementation and make a significant contribution towards Southeast Asia's biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Yours truly,



Dr. Effendy A. Sumardja
Chair - South East Asia Region
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depth, light and color...

global epicenter of marine

Southeast Asia is an area of outstanding marine species diversity. Indonesia and the Philippines together hold a massive 77% of the regions' coral reefs. It has been estimated that 88% of Southeast

Asia's reefs are severely threatened by human activities. The main threats are over-fishing, destructive fishing, and sedimentation and pollution from land-based sources. Over-fishing is the most pervasive threat to coral reefs in Southeast Asia. If fishing in Southeast Asia

is not reduced to more sustainable levels, both coral reefs and food security will be further imperiled. This also holds true for the Southeast Asia's vast pelagic resources and large migratory marine life.

Soft and hard corals thrive in the rich upwellings of Komodo National Park, Indonesia.





Marine Protected Area networks are widely considered as the most effective way to protect the ocean's bio-diversity and economic values.

The establishment of Marine Protected Area networks are widely considered as the most effective way to protect the ocean's bio-diversity and economic values. Such networks protect valuable resources, the habitat that sustains them, as well as the economic interest of the people who depend on them. State-of-the-art marine conservation strategies are focusing on the protection of networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which are designed to survive, managed to last and connected like strings of pearls across seas and oceans of Southeast Asia.

The direction for strategic marine conservation in Southeast Asia will be set by applying the best current science on how to select, design and manage MPAs and MPA networks. To investigate the MPA status and needs for the Southeast Asia region the World Commission of Protected Areas - Southeast Asia Marine Working Group (WCPA SEA Marine) was established in 2000. Five high priority issues for action ('themes') in the management of Marine Protected Areas were identified, as further detailed below: Extensive inputs from numerous experts on these themes formed the backbone of the *Regional Action Plan to Strengthen a Resilient Network of Effective Marine Protected Areas in Southeast Asia: 2002-2012* (RAP). In particular the RAP will seek to promote the following functions and goals of MPAs:

- **Conservation of biodiversity** - MPAs protect and restore marine biodiversity by implementing ecologically-based management plans of priority areas for marine conservation of both habitats and species, and provide a legal framework for sustainable development.

- **Sustainable Fisheries** - MPAs have demonstrated their effectiveness as a safeguard against fisheries collapse, and to enhance fish populations

through increased recruitment as well as spill-over of adults to fished areas. This makes MPAs a valuable tool for sustainable fisheries management. The MPA-for-Fisheries approach holds especially true for a region such as Southeast Asia, with its vast and remote (hard to patrol) waters and intense multi-species and multi-gear fisheries.

- **Sustainable tourism** - MPAs promote new partnerships in which tourism stakeholders participate in MPA management to conserve, restore and maintain marine ecosystems.

- **Integrated Coastal Management** - MPAs are exemplary systems of integrated and participatory management serving as the "building blocks" for sustainability through integrated coastal and marine resource management

The WCPA-SEA Marine Working Group has agreed the target date for designation of a Southeast Asia MPA network would be 2012, the same target set by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development to establish a global network of MPAs.



committment for the future...

vision and 10 year goal

Marine Protected Areas will be integrated with the migratory corridors used by cetaceans and marine turtles.

The RAP envisions a region with an effective, self-sufficient and resilient representative network of Marine Protected Areas, sustaining bio-diversity and human uses, designed to adapt to local and global environmental change, managed by an empowered, responsible citizenry. Its long-tern goals is to establish an effective, functional representative network of Marine Protected Areas by 2012, that is officially recognized and actively supported at all levels by governments in Southeast Asia, and implemented by a regional, national and/or local management authority.





The RAP's definition of Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) and Marine Reserves

The RAP will subscribe to the most universal definition of a Marine Protected Area as established by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources or IUCN (now the World Conservation Union) in 1988:

MPAs are areas of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying waters and associated flora, fauna, and historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or all of the enclosed environment.

The preliminary RAP definition is that Marine Reserves are a sub-set of Marine Protected Areas and/or fisheries restricted zones. This definition may be further amended to ensure it is in accordance with the rapidly advancing field of protected area management and ensure it is acceptable to most people in the region.

Marine Reserves are strict "no-take areas". That is Marine Reserves are minimally disturbed areas of the sea, where people are welcomed for recreational or non-extractive use.

In short, the RAP is a framework intended to co-ordinate, guide and implement existing and new plans of action for MPA networks throughout SE Asia

Implementation of the RAP

The RAP consolidates acknowledged areas of strength and needs of WCPA Southeast Asia Marine Working Group member nations (including all Association of Southeast Asian Nations ASEAN - and national and international environmental organizations). It identifies the necessary actions to address the issues of common concern, while remaining sensitive to those unique for individual member nations

In short, the RAP is a framework intended to co-ordinate, guide and implement existing and new plans of action related to the strengthening and networking of representative Marine Protected Areas in Southeast Asia. Five high priority issues for action ('themes') in the management of Marine Protected Areas were identified to effectively guide the implementation of the RAP:

1. Planning and design,
2. Adaptive management,
3. Coordination and enforcement,
4. Community awareness and development,
5. Sustainable financing.

These five themes form the backbone of the RAP and have been developed during extensive consultations with the region's marine conservation experts and key stakeholders. The RAP's implementation will be conducted in several phases by its members and remain flexible in meeting new challenges in the next decade.

Sustainable, adaptive, and effective

a marine conservation niche

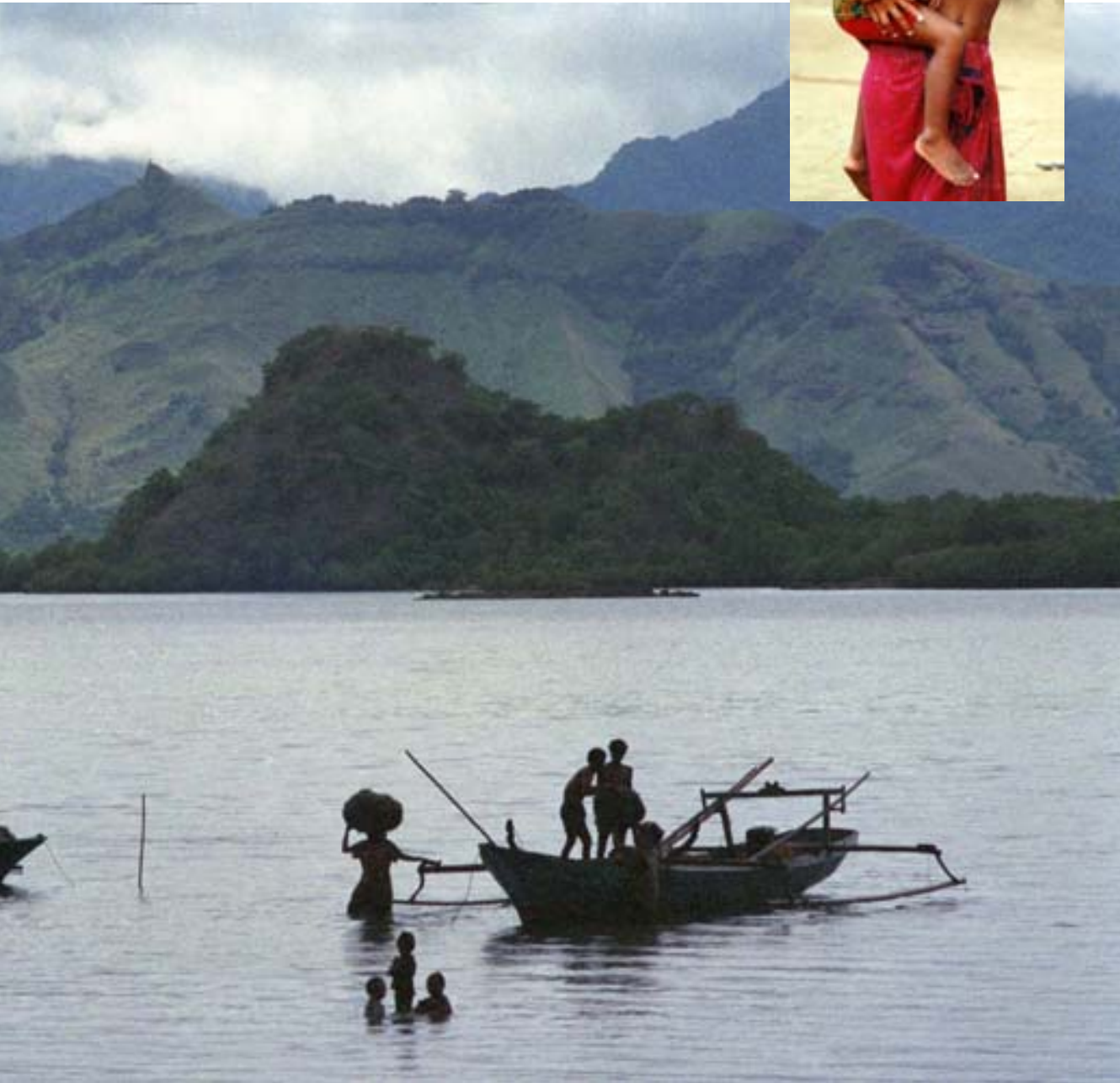
Marine Protected Areas are considered among the most effective tools in fisheries management. However, there is no blueprint for managing Marine Protected Areas but the process is guided by certain principles. The 'ecosystem approach' is the RAP's guide for action in marine biodiversity conservation. The WCPA SEA Marine's Regional Action Plan (RAP) will work with and compliment numerous other regional marine conservation programs, as well as major national marine conservation initiatives. The RAP's 'marine conservation niche' will be action-orientated approach with a long-term focus on the establishment of a representative, resilient and effective MPA network in Southeast Asia that

- a) is representative for Southeast Asia's varied coastal and oceanic habitats, and for the region's biodiversity of residential and migratory marine species.
- b) includes replicated sites to effectively address local threats and their underlying causes and build resistance as well as resilience in the overall Southeast Asia MPA network in the face of large-scale, often unmanageable threats
- c) integrates Southeast Asia's biological connectivity as a crucial marine conservation priority of regional, and indeed global significance. The network's efficiency and stability depend on the management of supportive interactions; from larval dispersal and re-seeding to migratory corridors of large marine life such as cetaceans and marine turtles.
- d) recognizes the need for self-efficacy the network must be large enough to be self-sustaining in the long-term.
- e) is based on the latest ecoregional planning principles which incorporate mitigation strategies of both primary and emerging threats like destructive fishing practices and coral bleaching for coral reefs ecosystems. Criteria for new site selection will include status of the resources, degree of connectivity to other reefs (both locally and regionally), critical habitats to vulnerable or endangered marine species and overall likelihood of conservation success.
- f) develops innovative financing mechanisms this business-oriented approach would generate revenues from appropriate MPA use for investment in effective MPA management
- g) capable of facilitating MPA implementation and management exchanges - by requesting members to assist other member states, and marine conservation programs.
- h) provide a testing platform for innovative and cost-effective communication options - through partnerships with high technology distance learning centers, linked throughout the region.

The 'ecosystem approach' is the RAP's guide for action in marine biodiversity conservation.



Understanding Marine protected Areas in an economic context



It is important to note that at present there are many active marine conservation programs conducted by WCPA SEA Marine members in existing MPAs and other priority conservation sites. The RAP's major guiding principles for MPA practitioners are to:

1. seek an appropriate balance between conservation and use of biodiversity;
2. include the conservation of ecosystem structure and functioning;
3. recognize the varying temporal scales and lag effects, which characterize ecosystem processes;
4. ensure that objectives for ecosystem management in Marine Protected Areas are set for the long term;
5. develop management objectives in Marine Protected Areas in accordance with societal choice, yet these always should be undertaken at the appropriate scale;
6. consider the effects (actual and/or potential) of their activities on adjacent and other ecosystems;
7. recognize the potential gains from good management and the need to understand their Marine Protected Areas in an economic context;
8. consider all forms of relevant information, including scientific and indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices;
9. involve all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines.



RAP Portfolio of Proposals

The RAP portfolio consists of 15 action-oriented proposals (three from each RAP theme) as developed through several regional meetings and expert workshops. The RAP's proposals are listed by theme and phased (mostly over 3 year time period) to reflect pragmatism in approach. Performance will be measured by the delivery of outputs and the achievement of the RAP's objectives.

The RAP portfolio of proposals *The Regional Action Plan to Strengthen a Resilient Network of Effective Marine Protected Areas in Southeast Asia: 2002 - 2012. RAP Working Group Portfolio of Proposals* includes the overall annual budgets per theme, descriptions of each proposal. More information is available on request from the Secretariat

RAP Working Group Portfolio of Proposals: 2003 - 2006

RAP Theme:

I. Planning and Design.

- Institutionalize the IUCN's WCPA Southeast Asia - Marine Working Group in the region through a Secretariat
- Strengthen technical capacity for the development and management of MPA network.
- Design network(s) of MPAs in Southeast Asia.

II. Adaptive Management

- Conduct a comparable analysis of case studies on adaptive management
- Identify and/or strengthen pilot projects in the region.
- Identify specific training needs and target groups for adaptive management training.

III. Coordination and Enforcement

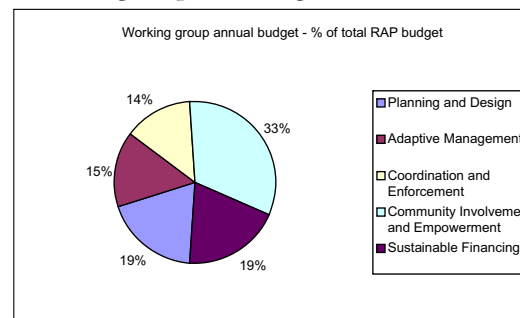
- Assessment of MPA enforcement models in the region and publish all case-studies/important lessons learned
- Develop best practices model for effective community enforcement/legislation (identify pilot projects).
- Build capacity for MPA enforcement from community to judiciary systems.

IV. Community Involvement and Empowerment

- Develop regional MPA communication strategy (Southeast Asia MPA Network 'branding').
- Organize a comprehensive study-tour program in support of co-managed MPA in the region.
- Develop detailed site-specific communication strategies.

V. Sustainable Financing.

- Develop business plans for selected network of MPAs in Southeast Asia, in collaboration with Conservation and Community Investment Forum (CCIF).
- Conduct desktop study and evaluation of the portfolio of available financing mechanisms for Southeast Asia's MPAs.
- Develop a training program on sustainable financing for park managers.



The full RAP document *Introducing the Regional Action Plan (RAP) to strengthen a Resilient Network of Effective Marine Protected Areas in Southeast Asia: 2002-2012*, prepared by: **Miguel D. Fortes, Rili Djohani, Benjamin Kahn** can be found at our website: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/biome/marine/seasia/seasia.html#download>

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Chronology WCPA-SEA-Marine

Identification Phase (1999)

Need for a WCPA-SEA-Marine working group identified during SEA Regional Action Plan in Laos, 1999.

Phase I: Introduction (2000-2001)

Launched at the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium in Bali, October 2000. Attended by 40 participants from 10 countries. Key challenges and priority themes are identified.

Symposium 'designing effective coral reef MPAs'

Regional workshop on sustainable financing for MPAs in Bali, November 2001

Phase II: Planning (2001-2002)

E-dialogue, website

Workshop marine Regional Action Plan (RAP) in Bangkok, May 2002

Fund raising

Phase III: Implementation (2003-2012)

Organizing working group, task force, and secretariat

Launch at World Congress on National Parks in South Africa, 2003

Implementation of RAP

WCPA SEA Marine Secretariat

Both the WCPA SEA Marine Secretariat and Chairperson are based and supported at The Nature Conservancy's South East Asia Center for Marine Protected Areas (SEA-CMPA), located in Bali, Indonesia. SEA-CMPA will coordinate the development of a Regional Action Plan for a MPA network in South East Asia through IUCN's World Commission of Protected Areas, SEA Marine Working Group. The role of the Secretariat is to provide information and professional advice, co-ordinate activities, and facilitate networking and the implementation of the RAP. It will assist governments, experts, and other stakeholders in building capacity for this purpose. The following WCPA SEA Marine task force/secretariat has been established:

Rili Djohani (Chair), Director of The Nature Conservancy Southeast Asia Center for Marine Protected Areas, Indonesia),

Miguel D. Fortes (Science), Professor at the University of the Philippines,

Patrick Andau (Sustainable Financing), Director of Sabah Wildlife Department, Malaysia), and

Feisol Hashim (Tourism), President Director Jaytasha Putrindo Utama and Deputy Chair Indonesia Tourism Council.

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Transforming Coral Reef Conservation in the 21st Century

Globally, The Nature Conservancy is leading a highly collaborative program to transform the way coral reef related marine protected areas (MPAs) are selected, designed and managed. The goal of this program called Transforming Coral Reef Conservation in the 21st Century - is to catalyze a worldwide effort to establish and protect networks of MPAs within high biodiversity tropical marine ecoregions that are designed to survive, managed to last, and inter-connected.

The Conservancy recognizes that coral reef conservation must effectively address local needs and threats, their underlying causes and build resilience in the face of large-scale, unmanageable global threats to biodiversity, such as coral bleaching. Building on traditional and legislative protection already in place, the establishment of Palau's MPA network will be the first application of the "Transforming Coral Reef Conservation" concepts of coral bleaching resistance, survivability, connectivity and financial sustainability. The program is founded on five core principles:

1. Establishing MPAs and integrating them into wider management frameworks is the most effective way to secure protection for coral reef biodiversity and associated tropical marine ecosystems.
2. Building resilience in the face of change into MPA networks is essential to long-term survival of coral reef and related biodiversity.

3. Developing sustainable means for MPAs to meet their costs are essential to creating protected areas at sufficient scale to conserve tropical marine ecosystems.
4. Strengthening local capacity to manage MPAs effectively to ensure their continued existence and the long-term survival of biodiversity.
5. Supporting policies needed to provide incentives for conservation and sustainable use of tropical marine resources, and to address key drivers of biodiversity loss, while integrating conservation into development priorities.

Acknowledgement

In memory of Drs. Achmad Abdullah for his lifetime commitment to marine conservation in Indonesia.

We would like to thank the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that is collaborating with WCPA-SEA Marine and provided technical and funding assistance to support the development of the RAP. We would like also to thank all working group leaders, facilitators, participants, and sponsors for this WCPA SEA-Marine initiative who have given so much time, efforts and resources since the identification phase in 1999 where the need for a regional working group was identified until this Regional Action Plan was completed in 2003. Special thank to: Bud Ehler, Arthur Paterson, Leah Bunce, Effendy Sumardja, and Benjamin Kahn for their instrumental support for the completion of this RAP document.



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The mission of IUCN is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.



The mission of WCPA is to promote the establishment and effective management of a world-wide representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas, as an integral contribution to the IUCN mission.



The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.



Japan Fund for Global Environment

The Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE) was established in 1993 and has helped finance various projects for the promotion and support of environmental conservation activities by non-government organizations.