



ACTION PLANS

OF THE SULU SULAWESI MARINE ECOREGION

**Volume 1: Sub-Committee on Threatened,
Charismatic, and Migratory Species**

The process of developing the
Action Plans of the Trinational Sub-committees
was supported by:





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**Volume 1: Sub-Committee on Threatened,
Charismatic, and Migratory Species**

FOREWORD



To ensure effective protection and sustainable development of the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME), the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 13 February 2004. The signing of the MoU was one of the highlights in the Side Events of the 7th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The three countries essentially agreed to adopt the ecoregion approach to conservation that will facilitate the realization of the four fundamental goals of biodiversity conservation which are: representation, sustainability of ecological processes, viability of species, and resiliency, which are embodied in the Eco-region Conservation Plan (ECP).

The ECP for SSME is a product of region-wide consultations across the three countries involving the stakeholders and various experts from the resource managers, academe, up to the policymakers. The ECP contains objectives that would allow the conservation of the coastal and marine resources of the Region without having to sacrifice the livelihood of the people. This involves ten objectives that the ECP hopes to attain in alignment to its 50-year vision.

The signing of the MoU led to the creation of the Tri-National Committee for the SSME. Subsequently, the Committee had its 1st Meeting on 01 March 2006 in East Kalimantan, Indonesia and created the Sub-Committees, namely: Threatened, Charismatic and Migratory Species; Sustainable Fisheries; and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Networks. The respective Sub-Committees met in 2007 and elected their respective Chairpersons, developed their Terms of Reference (TORs) as well as their Work Plans for the implementation of the ECP.

The publication and launching of the Work Plans of the Sub-Committees was approved by the SSME Tri-National Committee during its Fourth Meeting in Batam, Indonesia in July 2009. The publication is a priority because it will not only keep the stakeholders informed and reminded of the work for the SSME but as well be a useful tool to attract potential donors.

This Booklet includes the Work Plan of the Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species, its achievements, and the lessons learned in its implementation in the past three years. The lessons learned from previous programs that have been implemented in the Region will be useful to countries in the Coral Triangle in meeting the targets, particularly in Goal No. 5: Threatened Species Status Improving, of the Regional Plan of Action and the corresponding National Plans of Actions on the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Theresa Mundita S. Lim'.

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Director
Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Chairman, Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Tri-National Committee
CY 2009-2011

Write Shop on Marine Protected Areas and Networks
21 -22 September 2009

Malaysia, Department of Fisheries, Sabah

Mr. Rayner Stuel Galid
Mr. Lawrence Kissol

Philippines

Ms. Sandra Arcamo, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Ms. Lynette Laroya, Parks and Wildlife Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Write Shop on Sustainable Fisheries
26-27 September 2009

Indonesia

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Write Shop on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species
28-30 September 2009

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Dr. Annadel Cabanban, consultant, facilitated the writeshops and integrated the workshop outputs while Ms. Evangeline Miclat helped in the documentation and overall logistical requirements of the writeshops. Staff members of Conservation International's Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Program are also hereby acknowledged for their contribution at various stages of project preparation and implementation. Finally, the Trinational Committee of the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion acknowledges the generous support from the Walton Family Foundation for supporting Sulu Sulawesi Seascape Program of Conservation International and the USAID Coral Triangle Support Partnership for its support in the conduct of the writeshops and the printing and distribution of the Action Plans.

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I. The Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion

The Sulu Sea and Sulawesi Sea are twin seas formed by the movement of submarine plates from the north and south hemispheres of the earth. The plates brought with them numerous species; some of which thrived in the warm seas and survived; while some evolved with the lowering and rising of the marine waters.

The Sulu-Sulawesi Seas cover about 1 million square kilometers in area. It is considered as the global center of tropical marine diversity, supporting the highest number of coral reef fishes, demersal fishes, corals, turtles, and algae (DeVantier, et. al, 2004). The mangrove forests, the seagrass beds, the coral reef, the coastal and offshore waters are richest in number of species in the tropics.

These coastal and marine ecosystems are productive because of nutrients brought in by rivers from land as well as nutrients from the deep sea that are brought up by currents. The cold waters from the deep also cool the surface waters, preventing coral reefs from bleaching, weakening, or dying. Conserving the area is an insurance against loss of species due to climate change.

The bounty of these seas provides food and livelihood to about 50 million people living along the coastline of Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME). There are many threats, however, that undermine the food security and livelihoods of these people. Overfishing reduces the populations of fishes, mollusks, sea cucumbers to unproductive levels. Destructive fishing practices destroy coral reefs as habitats and kill young and old of all fishes. Organic pollution and sediment pollution from land slowly cover seagrass beds and coral reefs. More frequent and intense storms bring more freshwater to coastal waters, drastically lowering the salinity of coastal waters and killing organisms with low tolerance to changes in salinity. These storms also cause rivers to swell and carry organic substances and sediments to sea, increasing the stress to seagrass beds and coral reefs.

The Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines signed a Memorandum of Understanding to conserve the SSME during the 7th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Kuala Lumpur in 2004. The Ecoregion Conservation Plan was ratified by the three countries in 2006. The Countries subsequently established the Trinational Committee and three Sub-committees to implement the three programs of work:

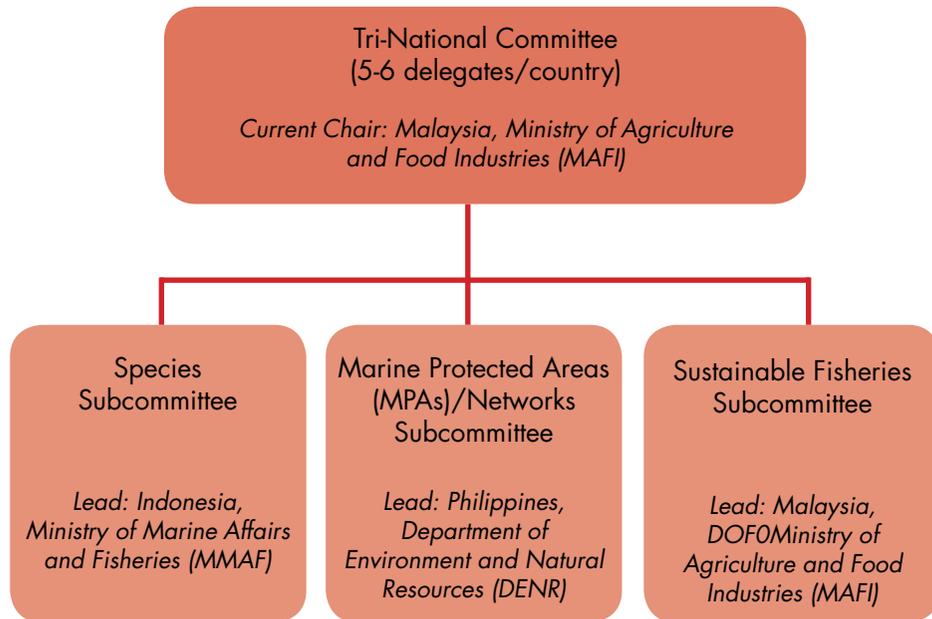
- Threatened, Charismatic, and Endangered Species
- Sustainable Fisheries
- Marine Protected Areas and Networks.

This volume contains the Action Plan of the Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species, as well as the achievements and lessons learned in the past three years of country-wide implementation. With SSME recognized as a priority seascape in the Coral Triangle, the lessons from the implementation will be useful to countries in the Coral Triangle Initiative in meeting the Target in Goal # 5: threatened species status improving.

4. The Sub-Committees of the SSME – the driving forces for marine conservation

The Trinational Committee was formed in 2006 immediately after the ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding by Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The Trinational Committee then formed the Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species; Sub-Committee on Sustainable Fisheries; and Sub-Committee on Marine Protected Areas and Networks. Each Sub-Committee is led by a country and guided by Terms of Reference. The Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species is led by Indonesia, the Sub-Committee on Sustainable Fisheries by Malaysia, and the Sub-Committee on Marine Protected Areas and Networks by the Philippines.

The Sub-Committees implement an Action Plan to meet the objectives and vision of the Ecoregion Conservation Plan. The Sub-Committees report on achievements of the three countries in meeting their respective Action Plans. The Sub-Committees are in turn assisted by the Technical Working Groups that are formed in each country. The governance structure of the Trinational Committee and its Sub-Committees is illustrated below.



History of implementation of the SSME Ecoregion Conservation Plan

Following the Biodiversity Visioning and Ecoregion Conservation Planning (ECP) in 2001, three programs of work was developed in order to operationalize the 10 objectives in the ECP. These programs of work are the:

- Threatened, Charismatic, and Endangered Species
- Sustainable Fisheries
- Marine Protected Areas and Networks (MPAs/N).

The SSME Ecoregion Conservation Plan was agreed upon by the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines at the 7th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2004. The Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of the SSME ECP was ratified by the legislatures of the three countries over the next two years. The Tri-national Committee of the SSME and the Sub-Committees for the implementation of the three (3) programs of work were subsequently formed and their respective Terms of References formulated.

History of the implementation of the Action Plan of the Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species

The First Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species was held in 2007 in Quezon City, Philippines. The Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee were conditionally adopted in 2007 and finally adopted in 2008. The Workplan on Threatened, Charismatic and Migratory Species was also prepared in 2007 and expanded in 2008.

The main focus of work in 2007 was initially marine turtles. In 2008, this was expanded to include Napoleon wrasse (humphead wrasse), sharks, and marine cetaceans. The Napoleon wrasse and sharks were included because these groups of species are in the IUCN Red List (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) and in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade for Endangered Species (CITES). The cetaceans were also added as this group is endangered as by-catch of fishing operations. The governments are meeting their obligations to CITES and to the CBD under the strategic activities as reflected in the Action Plan.



5. Action Plan of the Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species

5.2. Goal

To provide technical advice and recommendations to improve the policies on the protection and management of threatened, charismatic, and migratory species and their habitats in order to maintain the full range of biodiversity and provide for the long-term and socio-economic and cultural needs of human communities in the SSME.

5.3 Objectives

I. Marine turtles

Specific Objective 1: Develop technical advice and recommendations on marine turtle management and protection in nesting, feeding, and developmental habitats

Specific Objective 2: Develop technical advice and recommendations on marine turtle management and protection from overfishing or as by-catch in specific fisheries or fishing gear types

Specific Objective 3: Develop technical advice and recommendations on specific features/criteria in MPA design and MPA network design in relation to the protection and management of marine turtles in SSME waters

Specific Objective 4: Disseminate information generated from country reports and other relevant sources and promote the implementation of the best practices for, and successes/learning in, marine turtle population and habitat conservation and management in the SSME



II. Napoleon wrasse

Specific Objective - Develop technical advice and recommendations on the conservation and management of Napoleon wrasse in the SSME

III. Marine mammals

Specific Objective 1. Develop technical advice and recommendations on threatened marine mammal conservation management and protection in the breeding grounds, feeding grounds, and migratory routes

Specific Objective 2. Develop technical advice and recommendations on marine mammal management and protection from by-catch, entanglements in specific fisheries and fishing gear or gear types and ship strikes

IV. Sharks

Specific Objective 1. Develop technical advice and recommendations on the conservation and management of whale sharks and other CITES-listed cartilaginous fishes in the SSME

Specific Objective 2. Develop technical advice and recommendations on the management of threatened pelagic/migratory sharks and rays in overfishing or as by-catch in specific fisheries or fishing gear types

Specific Objective 3. Develop technical advice and recommendations on the conservation and management of endemic cartilaginous fishes in the SSME

5.4 Strategy

The Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species are focusing their efforts on marine turtles, Napoleon wrasse (humphead wrasse), marine mammals, sharks. The objectives above are to be met in species or group of species.

The three countries presented reports of the implementation of their Workplan at the Second Meeting of the Sub-Committee in 2008 in Jakarta. The Workplan was revised at the Third Meeting of the Sub-Committee in 2009 to be more aligned with the commitments of the countries to conserving species and to the advances made in the countries. The latest Workplan is presented in this publication as the Action Plan of the Sub-Committee of Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species. The Action Plan was further refined at the Workshop to Prepare the Action Plan of the Sub-Committee, held in September 2009 in Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines by the Focal Points of the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee of the Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species in each country implements the regional strategies in their respective countries. The national activities and results contribute to the achievements of the regional objectives. It is the intention of the Sub-Committee to raise funds to support the implementation of common and collaborative projects under the Action Plan.

**Action Plan of the Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species
2009 to 2012**

*The notation for each year indicates whether the Activity is a priority of the country.
I – Indonesia; M – Malaysia; P – Philippines*

I. Marine turtles

Specific Objective 1: Develop technical advice and recommendations on marine turtle management and protection in nesting, feeding, and developmental habitats					
Programs	Activity	Year			
		2009	2010	2011	2012
1.1. Development of technical advice and recommendation on best practices in minimizing threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats	1.1. Produce the country status on marine turtle populations and habitats in SSME	I,M,P	I,M,P		
	1.2. Review previous and existing legislation on turtle management including but not limited to harvest and trade	I,M,P	I,M,P		
	1.3. Review and propose technical recommendations for adaptation and adoption of the best conservation and management practices for marine turtles populations and their habitats on: economic incentives in order to reduce threats and mortality management measures and protocols for protection and management of marine turtle populations and their habitats	I,M,P	I,M,P		
1.2. Development of technical advice and recommendations on nesting habitats and management programs to maximize hatching production and survival	1.2.1. quantify the threats and evaluate the effectiveness of threats and mitigation measures (nest and beach management)	I,M,P	I,M,P		
	1.2.2. develop guidelines on threats and mitigation measures	I,M,P	I,M,P		
1.3. Development of technical advice and recommendations on specific features/criteria in MPA design and MPA network design in relation to the protection and management of marine turtles in SSME waters	1.3.1. identify areas of critical habitat such as migratory corridors, nesting beaches, inter-nesting and feeding areas	I,M,P	I,M,P		

	1.3.2. Identify and design best format of incentives/disincentives for adequate protection of critical habitats outside protected areas	I,M,P	I,M,P		
	1.3.3. review and develop practical guidelines on: management and regulation on the use of beaches and coastal dunes, including but not limited to re-vegetation of frontal dunes at nesting beaches, with indigenous flora as far as possible, removal or debris that impedes turtle nesting and hatchling production enhancement of recovery of degraded marine habitats; e.g., coral reefs, mangrove forests, seagrass beds evaluate the disposal of ship-borne waste	I,M,P	I,M,P		
Specific Objective 2: Develop technical advice and recommendations on marine turtle management and protection from overfishing or as by-catch in specific fisheries or fishing gear types					
Program	Activity	Year			
		2009	2010	2011	2012
Development of technical advice and recommendations on best practices to reduce the incidental capture and mortality of marine turtles in the fisheries	2.1. Collate information on in-water threats and potential interaction of turtles with fisheries	I,M,P	I,M,P		
	2.2. Develop guidelines on incidental capture mitigation mechanisms, which include: modification and use of fishing gears, devices, and techniques to minimize incidental capture of marine turtles in fisheries reduction of fishing gear and vessel disturbance to sea turtle habitats vessel monitoring systems and inspections at sea, in port, and at landing sites national on-board observer program coordination arrangement with fisheries industries and fisheries management organizations net retention and recycling schemes to minimize the disposal of fishing gear at sea and on beaches	I,M,P	I,M,P		

Specific Objective 3: Develop technical advice and recommendations on specific features/criteria in MPA design and MPA network design in relation to the protection and management of marine turtles in SSME waters					
Programs	Activity	Year			
		2009	2010	2011	2012
3.1. Development of technical advice and recommendations on turtle population and habitat research and monitoring protocols	review existing research methods and monitoring protocol and develop standard guidelines on: genetic identity; population status; migration routes; and other biological and ecological aspects of marine turtle (life history)	I, M, P	I, M, P		
3.2. Development of guidelines for MPA network design for marine turtles	3.2.1. develop criteria and indicators for the designation of protected/conservation areas, sanctuaries or seasonal exclusion zones within marine turtle critical habitats	I, M, P	I, M, P		
	3.2.2. identify candidate areas for MPA networks important for marine turtles	I, M, P	I, M, P		
Objective 4: Disseminate information generated from country reports and other relevant sources and promote the implementation of the best practices for, and successes/learning in, marine turtle population and habitat conservation and management in the SSME					
Program	Activity	Year			
		2009	2010	2011	2012
4.1. Publication to promote best practices and successes for marine turtle conservation	4.1.1 Prepare country reports – priority steps: - Form Publication Task Group - Prepare proposal for book publication - Prepare format for publication of Country Reports - Write Country Reports - Compile Country Reports - Identify common recommendations for best practices in the SSME	I, M, P	I, M, P		
	4.1.2. Finalize and distribute documents for publication in electronic and hard-copy formats		I, M, P		
	4.3. Popularize the technical advice and recommendations for marine turtle management		I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P

II. Napoleon Wrasse

Specific Objective. Develop technical advice and recommendations on the conservation and management of Napoleon wrasse in the SSME					
Program	Activity	Year			
		2009	2010	2011	2012
Development of technical advice and recommendation on the conservation and management of Napoleon wrasse in the SSME	1.1. complete the Non-detrimental Finding Study (NDF) of Napoleon wrasse at country level	I, M, P	I, M, P		
	1.2. identify critical sites for protection and management of Napoleon wrasse (e.g., MPAs)	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P	
	1.3. identify gaps in management (IUU) and develop recommendations to promote conservation of Napoleon wrasse (e.g., banning export by sea, quota on domestic trade)	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P

III. Marine Mammals

Specific Objective 1. Develop technical advice and recommendations on threatened marine mammal conservation management and protection in the breeding grounds, feeding grounds, and migratory routes					
Programs	Activity	Year			
		2009	2010	2011	2012
1.1. Development of technical advice and recommendations on minimizing threats on marine mammal populations and their habitats	1.1. 1. Produce status of marine mammal populations and habitats by country (in the SSME), including the following steps: Collate and organize existing data on marine mammal population, habitat utilization, and threats Identify and collate information on cultural, traditional, and socio-economic values/uses of marine mammals (both consumptive and non-consumptive) Assess level and impact of traditional harvest, directed take and by-catch of marine mammals	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P
	1.2. Review existing legislation on marine mammal management including but not limited to directed takes, by-catch, and trade	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P

1.2. Development of technical advice and recommendations on measures to protect and manage marine mammal habitats and migratory routes	1.2.1. identify areas critical habitats, such as migratory corridors, breeding and feeding grounds	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P
	1.2.2. review and develop practical guidelines on: Use of bays, migratory channels, and coastal areas, including but not limited to regulation of ship/boat traffic Sustainable whale and dolphin-watching tours Enhancing recovery of degraded marine habitats , e.g., coral reefs and seagrass beds	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P
	1.2.3. identify gaps and other threats (e.g., acoustic impacts) and development recommendations to address these gaps or threats	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P
2. Develop technical advice and recommendations on marine mammal management and protection from by-catch, entanglements in specific fisheries and fishing gear or gear types and ship strikes					
Program	Activity	Year			
		2009	2010	2011	2012
2.1. Development of technical advice and recommendations to reduce the incidental capture and mortality of marine mammals in fisheries	2.1.1. Collate information on entanglements, by-catch, and potential interactions with fisheries	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P
	2.1.2. Develop guidelines on incidental capture mitigation mechanisms which include but not limited to gear modification, reduction of fishing gears and vessel disturbance, vessel monitoring and inspection system, on-board observer program, coordination with fisheries industries	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P
	2.1.3. facilitate information-sharing about entanglement events in order to better understand the nature, source, and extent of the problem in SSME	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P
2.2. Development of technical advice and recommendations on marine mammal stranding responses to minimize mortality in stranding events and maximize data collection	2.2.1. collate and organize data on marine mammal strandings in SSME	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P

	2.2.2. develop practical guidelines and build regional capacity on marine mammal stranding response	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P
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In addition to the activities in the action plan, the Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species agreed to conduct a joint survey of marine mammals.

IV. Sharks

Develop technical advice and recommendations on the conservation and management of whale-sharks and other CITES-listed cartilaginous fishes (sharks and rays)					
Program	Activity	Year			
		2009	2010	2011	2012
1. Development and promotion of options and new conservation and management agreements for whale sharks and other CITES-listed species in the SSME	1. Produce status of whale-sharks and other CITES-listed sharks and rays in SSME: Collate and organize existing data on population, distribution, habitat, utilization, other threats Collate and organize existing data and/or information on the trade in specimens Review previous and existing legislation on the conservation and management Review, identify gaps, and propose technical recommendation for adaptation and adoption of the best conservation and management practices Develop collaborative research in aid of policy development for conservation and management	I, M, P	I, M, P		
2. Develop technical advice and recommendations on the management of threatened pelagic, migratory sharks and rays in overfishing or as by-catch in specific fisheries and fishing gears					
Program	Activity	Year			
		2009	2010	2011	2012
Development of technical advice and recommendations on the management of threatened pelagic, migratory sharks and rays in overfishing or as by-catch in specific fisheries and fishing gears	2.1. Produce country status on threatened pelagic, migratory sharks and rays Collate and organize existing data on the threatened pelagic sharks and rays, with notes on the population, distribution, habitat, utilization, and trade Collate and organize existing data on the interaction of threatened pelagic sharks and rays with fisheries (from direct and/or indirect takes)	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P

	2.2. Draft SSME Plan of Action pursuant to the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Threatened Pelagic, Migratory Sharks and Rays, including: National on-board observer program to monitor and report by-catch Coordination arrangement with fisheries industries and fisheries management organizations Precautionary catch limits for sharks and rays		I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P
Specific Objective 3. Develop technical advice and recommendations on the conservation and management of endemic cartilaginous (sharks and rays)					
Program	Activity	Year			
		2009	2010	2011	2012
Development of technical advice and recommendations on the conservation and management of endemic cartilaginous (sharks and rays)	1. collate and review existing information on endemic shark and rays		I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P
	2. identify and quantify threats to the populations of endemic sharks and rays		I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P
	3. identify gaps in conservation and management, develop recommendations to fill gaps, and promote conservation of endemic sharks and rays		I, M, P	I, M, P	I, M, P

The Sub-Committee is preparing a coffee table book on endangered, charismatic, and migratory species, as a regional project.

6. Lessons Learned in the Implementation of the Action Plan

The Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species focus on providing advice and recommendations for the conservation of marine turtles from the inception of implementation of the Action Plan. Highlighted here are the lessons learned in the tagging of marine turtles in Berau-Derawan Priority Conservation Area. The findings of the tag-recapture data are one of the bases for identifying a network of marine protected areas for marine turtle conservation.

From 2010 to 2012, the Sub-Committee will be on other threatened species in addition to marine turtles. The threats to Napoleon wrasse (or humphead wrasse), marine mammals, and sharks are primary fishing or by-catch of fishing activities while habitat-degradation and marine pollution are secondary threats. The Sub-Committee on Sustainable Fisheries is now conducting activities to reduce by-catch of endangered species. The Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species intends to focus their research on biology and ecology of species. These kinds of information are necessary for the formulation of biological regulations for fisheries, thereby meeting the goal of ecosystem-based management of fisheries.

Lessons learned on marine turtle conservation, Derawan, Indonesia¹

Derawan complex is located in east Borneo and is an important site for green turtle population in Southeast Asia and West Pacific, which use the area as their nesting and foraging ground. In 2005, this area was established as a Marine Conservation Area of Berau (ca. 1.3 million hectares) including 25 villages with total of 35,000 residents living within the multiple-use park, who were mostly artisanal fishermen. To reach this stage of MPA era was a long process, dating back from 1979, and tagged as initial era (1979-1998), sharing roles era (1998-2002), collaboration era (2002-2005). Government policies played an important role in regulating turtle egg collections and working with the local communities in alternative livelihoods, nesting beach cleaning, and turtle monitoring was equally important in achieving conservation goals.

The Marine Conservation Area of Berau started with the survey in 1979 to find nesting sites of marine turtles. Marine turtles remain a focus of conservation and participatory monitoring with the local communities. Tag-recapture is a common method in studying the migratory pathway, seasonality, and distance pertaining to migratory species. Marine turtles were tagged and released in Derawan Islands Complex in 2005 under a joint program of WWF-Indonesia and The Nature Conservancy. The activity was done to monitor green turtle population as well as increase public awareness on turtles by incorporating public participation in turtle monitoring.^{2,3} Hundreds of marine turtles were tagged from 2005 to 2008.

Tagging is part of the turtle monitoring program conducted in nesting beaches and foraging grounds. Results showed that turtles travel to Sabah and the Philippines. A tagged turtle from another tagging program in the South Pacific was also found in Derawan. The tag-recapture program underscored the importance of regional collaboration and regular communication with other countries. Verification of the tagging information is also important in order to ensure data accuracy and correct interpretation of the turtles' migration routes.



¹ Prepared by Ahsanal Kasasiah, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and Matheus H. Halim, WWF Indonesia-Coral Triangle Network Initiative

² Wiryawan, B., M.Khazali, & M.Knight (eds.). 2005. Menuju Kawasan Konservasi Laut Berau, Kalimantan Timur. Status sumberdaya pesisir dan proses pengembangannya. Program Bersama Kelautan Berau Mitra Pesisir/CRMP II USAID, WWF dan TNC. Jakarta.

³ Windia Adnyana, Lida Pet Soede, and Matheus Halim. Current Population Status of Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Derawan Islands Complex of East Kalimantan, Indonesia. Preliminary results of tagging studies in nesting and feeding grounds. (WWF-Indonesia Internal Report)

7. Sub-Committee of SSME and the Coral Triangle Initiative

The Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species has an Action Plan that is consistent with Goal # 5 (Threatened species status improving) of the Regional Plan of Action of the Coral Triangle Initiative. The implementation of activities in this Action Plan contributes to meeting the CTI Target of “improved status of sharks, sea turtles, ... marine mammals, ... and other identified threatened species.” The Sub-Committee can provide technical advice and recommendations in designing a science-based network of marine protected areas for conservation of species. The Tri-National Committee for SSME has adopted, in July 2009, the Action Plan for Conservation of Sea Turtles in Sulu-Sulawesi and the Design of Network of Marine Protected Areas (Pilcher, 2008) that encompass critical sites in the transboundary Sea Turtle Corridor. The network builds on the world’s first transborder protected area for marine turtles, Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area of Philippines and Malaysia.

The Sub-Committee and other international initiatives

The Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species aims for the conservation of species for sustainable use. The Action Plan can be viewed as part of the response of the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines to honor their commitments to international agreements. The Sub-Committee will engage with the Association of Southeast Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN). It will also be beneficial for the Sub-Committee to work closely with the Survival of the Species Group of IUCN in assessing the conservation status of species in the region and to design conservation activities to improve population levels of endangered species.



ANNEXES

Annex I. Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee on Endangered, Charismatic, and Migratory Species of the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion

Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee on Endangered, Charismatic and Migratory Species of the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion

1. Official Designation

The Sub-Committee on the Endangered, Charismatic and Migratory Species of the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME), hereinafter referred to as the Species Sub-Committee, is composed of the representatives of designated government officials as well as experts and/or specialists from non government organizations, research and/or academic institutions of the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Republic of the Philippines endorsed by their respective National Focal Authorities.

2. Mandate

The mandate of the Species Sub Committee originates from the decision taken by the SSME Tri-National Committee at its first meeting held in Balikpapan, Indonesia, 1st March 2006. The Species Sub Committee was established under the auspices of the Tri-National Committee to address technical issues on the protection and management of endangered, charismatic and migratory species in the region and provide technical advices and recommendations for policy development.

3. Duties and Responsibilities

The Species Sub-Committee, on its behalf or jointly with other two Sub-Committees (i.e. Sustainable fisheries that includes aquaculture and livelihood systems; and Marine Protected Areas and Networks that includes caves and wetlands), shall serve, in general, as a forum to provide technical advices and recommendations to the Tri-National Governments for the formulation of policies on the effective protection and management, including genetic conservation of endangered, charismatic and migratory species of the SSME. These will be achieved through, but not limited to, the followings:

- 3.1. Review of existing policies and programs on the protection and management of the endangered, charismatic and migratory species within or outside Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including inter alia marine conservation and resource utilization which affects the species.
- 3.2. Provision of technical advices and recommendations for the development of new policies and programs on the protection and management of the endangered, charismatic and migratory species within or outside MPAs, including inter alia marine conservation and resource utilization which affects the species.
- 3.3. Review and consolidation of technical advices and recommendations previously presented in various forms by organizations and experts as the basis to formulate new recommendations for policy development;

- 3.4. Provision of technical advices and recommendations to support effective implementation of regional and global agreements related to endangered, charismatic, and migratory species protection and management, such as IOSEA (Indian Ocean and South East Asia Marine Turtle Conservation and Management), CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), CMS (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species), Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands) and CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) at national or SSME levels.
- 3.5. Coordination of research and studies on the endangered, charismatic and migratory species within the SSME to enhance understanding of biodiversity resources and factors affecting them to form basis for technical advices and recommendations for policy development.
- 3.6. Coordination of the management and sharing of data and information on the endangered, charismatic, and migratory species as the basis to develop technical advices and recommendations for policy development.

4. Sub Committee Composition

4.1 Chairmanship

The Sub Committee shall elect its Chair from representatives of the members of the Sub Committee. The Chair shall serve a tenure of two years and shall be elected at a regular Species Sub Committee meeting. The Chair shall oversee all aspects of the work progress of the Sub Committee.

In the event where the Chair is temporarily incapacitated, the Sub Committee members shall appoint an Acting Chair to take over the functions of the Chair.

4.2 Membership

Each country may nominate up to maximum five persons for the membership of the Sub-Committee. When it is deemed necessary, depending on the issues being addressed, the Chair of the Sub-Committee, by the consent of the members may invite external experts to assist the Sub Committee in its works.

4.3 Focal Person

Members from each country shall appoint one focal person for each country to facilitate communication and coordinate activities within each country and between member countries.

Annex 2. Achievements of the Countries in Implementing the Action Plan of the Sub-Committee on Threatened, Charismatic, and Migratory Species

Indonesia

- Tagging of hundreds of marine turtles in Berau-Derawan Priority Conservation Area, Sulawesi Sea

Malaysia

Napoleon wrasse

- Non-Detrimental Finding Study, 2008 – The results of the study were used by the Scientific and Management bodies in Malaysia to ban export of humphead wrasse by January 2010. (Refer to Lessons Learned in Action Plan for Sub-Committee on Sustainable Fisheries)

Philippines

- Assessment of conservation status of corals in 2007, with IUCN and Global Marine Species Assessment
- Assessment of conservation status of wrasses (Labridae), 2009, with IUCN and Global Marine Species Assessment

Ecoregion-wide

Accomplishments of the three-country partnership under the CI Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project:

- Review of status of knowledge and information on sea turtle biology, habitats, conservation and management to determine conservation needs and actions
- Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Turtles and their Habitats in the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion: a priority seascape in the Coral Triangle (Pilcher, 2008) – recommends courses actions for the sustainable management of marine turtles shared by the countries
- Design of a Network of Protected Areas to Safeguard Marine Turtles in Sulu-Sulawesi (Pilcher, 2008)