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Summary Activity Report: 1st Regional Exchange on Seascapes

Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria, Quezon City, Philippines, 8-10 April 2014



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INTRODUCTION

The First Regional Exchange on Seascapes aimed at fostering common and shared understanding of an integrated ecosystem-based management of oceans and coastal areas and progress towards a seascape approach in the six member countries of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), which includes Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. This Regional Exchange was conducted at the Crown Plaza Manila Galleria, in Quezon City, Philippines on April 8-10, 2014.

The activity attempted to demonstrate the integration of concerned sectors in the CTI and the different initiatives of the countries leading to the seascape approach under Goal I of the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action, to wit: "Goal #1. Priority Seascapes Designated and Effectively Managed."

With participation of a total of 63 delegates/representatives of the CT6, partners, stakeholders and observers, the exchange was able to pilot the use of the Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Diagnostic Tool to measure progress and basis for developing a more focused plan to achieve integrated EBM.

The three day activity culminated with the Second Seascapes Technical Working Group Formal Meeting that endorses the output of the regional exchange with the revisions and comments to be provided by each country one week after their receipt of the draft report in May 2014.

The three-day activity had the following specific objectives:

1. Foster integration of CTI Technical Working Groups (TWGs) through participation of resource persons and members of other TWGs.
2. Reintroduce seascapes by way of an integrated EBM approach with an emphasis on integration and scale, rather than any particular organizing framework or definition.
3. Build recognition and confidence in current practices that are already moving towards seascape management through an integrated EBM approach that can be tailored to specific context and needs.
4. Assist the CT6 to take stock of their progress and needs on seascapes/integrated EBM in a defined geographic area of their choosing using the EBM Diagnostic Tool.
5. Link EBM to seascapes by linking EBM Diagnostic Tool Strategies to the Nine Essential Elements of the Seascapes Guidebook to show overlap and appropriateness.
6. Assess gaps (e.g. tool design, capacity) to be filled through subsequent REX and other means
7. Develop additional draft seascape/EBM strategies from potentially missing essential elements (e.g. private sector engagement, sustainable financing, human well-being)

The exchange was hosted by the Government of the Philippines and conducted by the CTI Seascapes Technical Working Group with assistance from the Government of Australia and facilitation by Conservation International (CI).

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

The regional exchange consisted of plenary sessions with presentations by resources persons and country breakout sessions to discuss several concerns, and to work through the EBM Diagnostic Tool. (see Agenda in Annex I [A1]).

Day I was highlighted with opening remarks given by the Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines who welcomed all the delegates, sponsors, resource persons and hoped for a fruitful three-day regional exchange on seascapes. A series of presentations on the use of the EBM Diagnostic Tool in several

areas in the world were provided following an orientation on the EBM approach. The outputs of the first day include the updates from the Technical Working Groups, the sharing of understanding of the concepts of seascapes and EBM, and the completion of the first two sheets of the Diagnostic Tool.

Day 2 focused mainly on completing the EBM Diagnostic Tool for a selected geography from each country and a discussion of the outputs, insights on the process, and suggestions and comments on the tool for future development.

Day 3 was an exchange of insights on the EBM Diagnostic Tool exercise particularly on suggestions to improve the tool. The development of a seascape and governance framework were brainstormed among the participants taking into consideration of the nine essential elements of a seascape, seven strategies of EBM and the CRM planning framework of the Seascape TWG Chairman.

The second formal meeting of the Seascapes Technical Working Group was undertaken after the REX. The meeting tackled several agenda items, one of which was the endorsement of the REX outputs and the roadmap to the development of the seascapes guidelines, which will be presented at the next SOM.

RESULTS AND ACTIONS

Below are the key workshop outputs and priority actions which were affirmed, upon further review and deliberation, by the 2nd CTI-CFF Seascapes TWG formal meeting (See minutes of meeting in Annex 3 [A3])

COUNTRY DEFINITION OF SEASCAPES AND EBM

To better understand how each country perceived the concept of seascapes and EBM, the following summarizes their perceptions of each at the beginning of the Day 1:

	<i>What does ‘Seascapes management’ mean to you?</i>	<i>What does ‘ecosystem-based management’ mean to you?</i>
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geographically-defined area ▪ ICM+ (including biodiversity and charismatic species) ▪ Ecological connectivity ▪ Marine spatial planning ▪ Marine protected area networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management tool used within specific area ▪ Based on ecosystem considerations and social aspects ▪ Ecosystem services
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fishery management areas with other development sectors ▪ Inclusive of marine spatial planning, ICZM ▪ Geographically-defined area designated by at least 2 nations ▪ Joint agreement to manage 9 elements ▪ Cooperative Terms of Reference between countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encompasses all ecosystems within a specified area ▪ Inclusive of neighboring countries when scale is across boundaries ▪ Similar to marine spatial planning and ICZM ▪ Inclusive of other sectors ▪ Including neighboring terrestrial ecosystems (“ridge to reef”)
Papua New Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building ecosystem resilience ▪ Rehabilitation of important marine ecosystems (coastal and islands); restoration of marine resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainably managing marine resources ▪ Addressing multiple needs of communities without jeopardizing options for future generations

	<p>populations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustaining community livelihoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Benefit from full range of ecosystem goods and services ▪ Integrated management approach including traditional and modern conservation practices, given cultural significance of area
Philippines	Strategically defining a geomorphologic area that provides habitats for essential, long-term evolutionary processes and important species assemblages through a strategically identified networks of Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (MKBA) and Corridors	Managing a sustainable scale of ecological processes within ecosystems for protecting, sustaining and enhancing ecosystem services for community.
Timor-Leste	Seascape is a unit of scale of EBM, large enough to capture the interactions within marine ecosystems as well as the interactions between marine ecosystems and landscape, including issues of governance and governability of uses.	An environmental management approach that recognizes the full array of interactions within ecosystems, including humans, rather than considering single issues, species, or ecosystem services in isolation.
Australia	Identifying an area based on biogeography, considering different jurisdictions. For example, within Australia these were defined as bioregions and used as the spatial extent for planning and management. Within the seascape an EBM approach is taken that manages the interaction between pressures and values using a variety of tools. A key component is the identification the interaction between pressures (e.g. transportation, mining, tourism) and ecological/conservation values.	EBM is the framework that is used to integrate across different sectors to achieve ecologically sustainable development. EBM identifies a range of tools that can be used in particular seascapes (e.g., MSP, MPA, EBFM, etc.) to maximize economic and environmental benefits. It contains an explicit consideration of the cumulative impact on the ecosystem.

COMMENTS ON THE EBM DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

Based on the exercise, the participants identified areas for improvement on the tool as follows:

- (a) There is a need to consider national economic development agenda within the seascape region that may affect coastal resources such as mining, marine transportation, energy and oil exploration, and tourism in addition to community and local economic development (suggested by Indonesia, Malaysia, Solomon Islands, Australia). The tool should also consider the process of environmental impact assessment for the proposed development projects; multi-sectoral use zoning/allocation of areas for industrial development activities (e.g., transportation, energy and oil exploration, mining, tourism, etc.) within seascape through marine spatial planning and balancing of conservation values and needs within national development agenda.
- (b) There is a need to include the concept of marine corridors and specific marine management areas as “pockets” within the seascape
- (c) Other strategies to be included in the tool are the following:
 - a. Enforcement (suggested by Timor-Leste, Australia)
 - b. Capacity Building (suggested by Philippines, Timor-Leste)
 - c. Sustainable Financing (suggested by Timor-Leste, workshop organizing team)
 - d. Private Sector Engagement (suggested by workshop organizing team)
- (d) Other Management Activities to be added are as follows:

- a. Strategy A: 1) Legal framework, 2)enabling legislation, and 3)adaptive capacity building
- b. Strategy D: 1) Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)
- c. Strategy E: 1) Creation of economic incentives; 2)Recognition of traditional resource management by government, and mechanisms for inclusion of traditional management practices; 3) Degree/status of resource management decentralization;
- d. Cross cutting management activities: 1) Data and information sharing; and 2) sustainable financing. Sustainable financing should include financial resource required to gather monitoring and evaluation data for adaptive management.

PROCESS OF SEASCAPES MODEL DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING THE SEASCAPES GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

There is a need to come up with the seascapes model and governance framework which will be tailored to the context of the CTI by incorporating the nine elements of seascapes as cited in the Seascapes Guidebook with the seven strategies of Integrated EBM as cited in “Toward Ecosystem-based Coastal Areas and Fisheries Management in the Coral Triangle: Integrated Strategies and Guidance” and any other additions, revisions, and/or deletions identified.

Nine Elements of Seascapes	Seven Strategies of Integrated EBM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Enabling legal framework; 2) Ecosystem-based management including MPAs; 3) Adequate institutions and capacity; 4) Private sector engagement; 5) Social and political support; 6) Maintenance and restoration of critical habitats and ecosystems; 7) Threatened species recovery; 8) Human well-being benefits; and 9) Sustainable financing and market mechanisms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Governance of management areas: Manage coastal and marine areas based on ecological boundaries, resource use patterns, and governance jurisdictions 2) Fisheries managed for sustainability: Manage multiple fisheries and their associated ecosystems for sustainable use and human benefit under an EAFM; 3) Protected habitats and their connectivity: Protect representative and critical habitats (and their connectivity) through MPA networks and other means; 4) Threatened species, critical species, and functional groups: Protect and restore species and functional groups that maintain ecosystem integrity; 5) Community and economic development: Diversify and sustain coastal communities’ livelihoods; 6) Watershed management: Effectively manage watersheds and freshwater resources; and 7) Hazard risk reduction: Reduce risk to communities from climate impacts and coastal hazards. It will also capture the CRM planning process recommended by the chairman of the working group.

The development of this model and framework will be done through the following process:

1. Establishment of subcommittee to develop the model in May 2014;
2. SWG to present the process during the Special SOM for review and endorsement in May 2014 in Manado;
3. Subcommittee to create a workplan to develop the model in May 2014;
4. SWG to finalize and endorse the seascapes model during its third formal meeting in September 2014 (venue to be finalized);
5. SWG to submit the seascapes model for review and endorsement during the 10th regular SOM in October/November 2014 in Timor-Leste

PRIORITY ACTIONS

The following needs to undertaken by the Seascapes Technical Working Group:

1. Approval of REX I outputs
The CT6 agrees to provide feedback one week after the receipt of the Chairman's Executive Summary and Final Report, which will be sent out in May.
2. Endorsement process for the development of CTI Seascapes Model
A subcommittee will be established to develop the CTI Seascapes Model. The Chair will communicate with National Coordinating Committee (NCC) focal points to request nominations and to the partners to request technical support by Monday, April 21, 2014. CT6 will respond and send their nominations one week after the receipt of the letter.
3. Plans for the REX2
 - a. Schedule: before the regular SOM in October/November 2014
 - b. Venue: PNG (to be conferred with the colleagues in the country) or Malaysia
 - c. Proposed Agenda:
 - i. Capacity building focus: marine spatial planning
 - ii. Include specific case studies, specifically the SSME
 - iii. Finalize the seascape model