

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Coral Triangle Region



CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY



Photo Credit: The Ocean Agency

Background

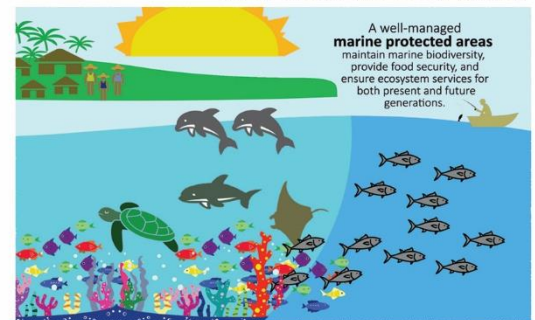
Marine protected areas (MPAs) are an important tool for conserving marine biodiversity and sustaining critical fisheries and other marine resources. They have been proven to directly reduce local direct exploitation (fishing) and pollution. MPAs can also indirectly mitigate coastal and thermal stress-related threats by increasing reef resilience and reducing the compounding effects of multiple threats.

Existing Marine Protected Areas in the CT Region

Individually, the CT6 initiated the establishment of MPAs in the mid-1970s, at about the same time as other countries around the world. Since then, MPAs have increasingly been emphasized in international forums as tools to maintain and improve the status of critical coastal habitats, improve fisheries and enhance adaptation to climate change.

There are now 2,419 MPAs listed or established in the CT6. The Philippines has the greatest number of MPAs (about 1823 or 80% of the total) while Indonesia has the largest total area (more than 90%). These numbers reflect the different approaches to establishing MPAs in the CT, with some countries (particularly Indonesia) tending to establish mostly large MPAs while others (the Philippines, PNG and Solomon Islands) are more apt to establish small community- or local government-based MPAs (Green et al. 2011; Green et al. 2012).

While many MPAs exist within the CT, very few are effectively managed (Green et al. 2009; Burke et al. 2012; Maypa et al. 2012) and fewer still have been planned as ecological networks (e.g. Green et al. 2009; Wilson et al. 2011). The MPAs altogether include 17.8% of the region's coral reef area, but less than 8% of them are considered partially or fully effective in achieving their objectives. Generally, the MPAs suffer from a lack of good governance and enforcement.



2,419

No. of MPAs in the Coral Triangle Region

1,823

No. of MPAs in the Philippines, the largest number of MPAs in the CT Region

Mid-1970s

the year CT6 initiated the establishment of MPAs

****84%**

Coral reef area outside MPAs







****8%**

Reefs in MPAs rated as not effective

Sources:

2013 data – as compiled from CT Atlas; 2016 data- as reported by the countries during MPA REX 6 in 2016; 2018 data- as reported by the countries during MPA REX in 2018.; and **Effective Coral Triangle MPAs Burke et.al 2012 and CT Atlas)

NUMBER AND AREAS OF MPAs IN THE CORAL TRIANGLE

COUNTRY	Total No. of MPAs (2013)	Total No. of MPAs (2016)	Total No. of MPAs (2018)	Area (km ²) of known boundaries
	145	152	172	208,700 km ²
	54	54	56	15,032.25 km ²
	74	74	74 TBD	TBD
	1,785	1,785	1,823 TBD	58,237.8 km ²
	214	291	291 TBD	1,890 km ² TBD
	1	3	3 TBD	557 km ² TBD
CT Region	2,273	2,285	2,419	*284,417 Km ²

Note: 2013 data – as compiled from CT Atlas; 2016 data- as reported by the countries during MPA REX 6 in 2016; 2018 data- as reported by the countries during MPA REX in 2018.

* The total area from the CT5 without 2018 data from PNG

Country

1. Timor Leste
2. Papua New Guinea
3. Solomon Islands
4. Philippines
5. Indonesia
6. Malaysia

Marine Protected Area

584 km²
4,585 km²
1,900 km²
1,269 km²
181,848 km²
6,978 km²

TOTAL**217,164 km²****Contact****CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat**

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