



# COBSEA Regional MPA Webinar

Presentation of Draft Situation Analysis of MPAs in the EAS region

17 February 2022 13.00-15.00 ICT

By

*Ms. Saisunee Chaksuin: Team Leader Specialist in MPAs*

And

*Mr. Yunjun YU: Assistant Specialist in MPAs*

1

## OUTLINE

- ▶ METHODOLOGY AND STEPS OF WORK
- ▶ STATUS OF MPAs & MPA NETWORKs IN THE EAST ASIAN SEA REGION
- ▶ MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING AND BLUE ECONOMY IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS REGION
- ▶ CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES
- ▶ RECOMMENDATIONS
- ▶ POTENTIAL DONORS

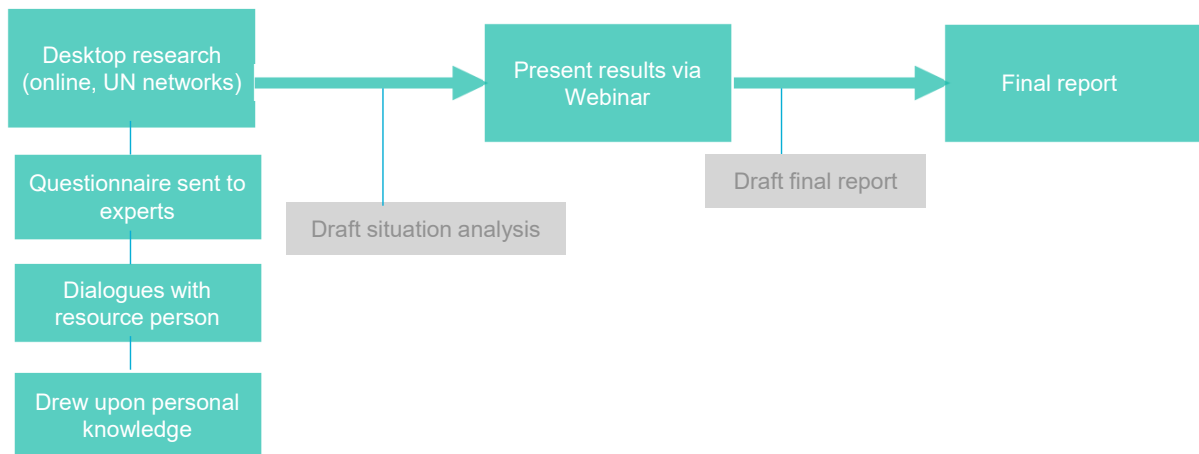
2

## METHODOLOGY AND STEPS OF WORK

Oct. 2021

17 Feb. 2022

End of Feb. 2022



3

## STATUS OF MPAs & MPA NETWORKs IN THE EAST ASIAN SEA REGION

### Marine Protected Areas :

*A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values*

(Ref: IUCN 2008)

4

## STATUS OF MPAs & MPA NETWORKs IN THE EAST ASIAN SEA REGION

### Marine Protected Areas Networks :

*Networks of MPAs can help each individual MPA as well as any physically-linked MPA enhance their effectiveness in protecting biological resources for the ecosystem as well as for society*

Types of MPA Network;

- 1) Social networks
- 2) Ecological networks
- 3) Management-based networks

5

### MPAs covered and number of MPAs

| Country     | MPA covered (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Number of MPAs   |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Cambodia    | 691                            | 5                |
| China       | 120,000 <sup>1</sup>           | 271 <sup>2</sup> |
| Indonesia   | 181,865                        | 206              |
| Malaysia    | 14,930                         | 97               |
| Philippines | 32,010                         | 337              |
| RO Korea    | 7,979                          | 319              |
| Singapore   | 0.295                          | <1%              |
| Thailand    | 13,412                         | 39               |
| Viet Nam    | 3,630                          | 38               |



Reference: [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net) , <sup>1</sup> Zeng, 2021, <sup>2</sup> Hu et.al., 2020,

6

## STATUS OF MPAs & MPA NETWORKs IN THE EAST ASIAN SEA REGION

- ✓ As shown in the table, every country has MPA.
- ✓ Countries have different definitions and categories to designate MPA: e.g.  
China has marine nature reserves and marine special protected area.  
Thailand has national park and non-hunting areas; Cambodia has MPA and wildlife sanctuary.
- ✓ All MPAs are designated and managed by objectives:
  - Indonesia - biodiversity conservation, fisheries usage
  - Malaysia – recreation, conservation
  - Singapore Sister's Island MPA - research, education, tourism
- ✓ MSP and zoning are used in many areas including Indonesia and Thailand where Thailand is planning a new marine protected zone that will overlap with the MSP area, to fulfil the governance gap of re-zoning the area and sharing responsibilities with different agencies.

7

## STATUS OF MPAs & MPA NETWORKS IN THE EAST ASIAN SEA REGION

- ✓ Management can fall under different agencies, e.g.
  - ▶ China is streamlining MPA management under its Ministry of Natural Resources.
  - ▶ Malaysia has 4 different agencies overseeing different MPA objectives.
  - ▶ Philippines manages MPAs at national, local or joint levels.
  - ▶ Vietnam also has locally-managed MPAs and social networks.
  - ▶ RO Korea has a management plan for all of their MPAs that was developed with local community input. Some objectives of RO Korea's tidal flats are to provide a habitat for migratory birds, absorb carbon, etc

8

## MPA NETWORKS IN EAS REGION

### Regional/sub-region network e.g.

- ▶ Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area (TIHPA) :The Turtle Islands in the Philippines and the Sabah Turtle Islands in Malaysia
- ▶ The Coral Triangle Initiative of Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) : Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste. This network is social, ecological, and managerial.
- ▶ North East Asia Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN): Aims to conserve marine species and their habitats, promote sustainable use of resources, and facilitate regional cooperation in MPA management in 12 MPAs in China, Japan, RO Korea and the Russian Federation.

9

## MPA Networks in EAS Region

### Examples of networks within COBSEA countries

- ▶ Wakitobi National Park in Southeast Sulawesi: Stakeholders redesigned the park's management plan, focusing on collaborative management and building solid legal foundations for park zoning and enforcement;
- ▶ The Philippines MPA systems; Lanuza Bay Development Alliance (LBDA) : partnership among 7 municipalities (Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Carmen, Lanuza, Cortes, and Tandag)
  - 5 major coastal zones
  - 1. MPA
  - 2. rehabilitation zone
  - 3. sustainable use zone
  - 4 tourism zone
  - 5. national integration protected areas zone

10

## MPA Networks in EAS Region

**Dialogues for networks have started in transboundary areas**

**Examples:**

- ▶ Dialogues started from IUCN-MFF (with participatory of FiA, MoE, DMCR) and SEAFDEC about the conservation of dolphin, mangrove, and short mackerel in Trat Province, Thailand and Koh Kong Province, Cambodia.
- ▶ The scientist network established between Kep Archipelago in Cambodia and Kien Giang in Viet Nam regarding seagrass and dolphin conservation
- ▶ Research network about blue economy, MSP and megafauna in Thailand supported from FIO, China



11

## MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING & BLUE ECONOMY IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS REGION

### Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

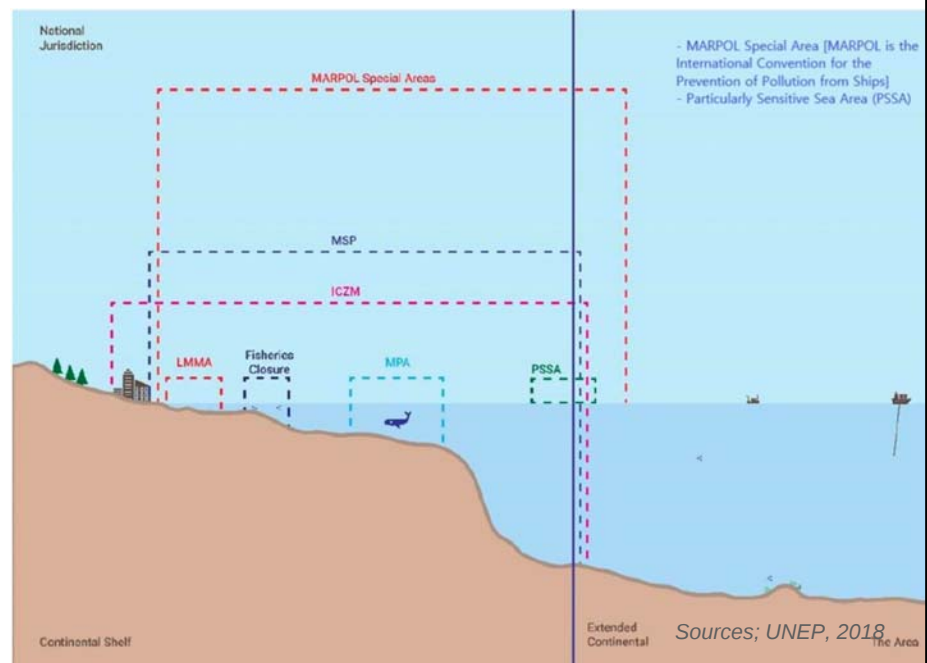
*“a public process of analysing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives that have been specified through a political process*

(Ref: UNESCO-IOC)

12

## MPA NETWORKS IN EAS REGION

- ✓ Countries already link MPA to MSP considering aspects of LMMA, fisheries zones and management and MPAs



13

## MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING AND BLUE ECONOMY IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS REGION

- ✓ Countries in the EAS Region each have their own laws and regulations providing a legal framework to implement MSP

Examples:

- The Philippines's laws are specific to spatial planning in comparison to other countries where the laws encompass a broader philosophy of integrated coastal management
- Indonesia's Coastal and Small Island Management Law
- Thailand's Promotion of Marine and Coastal Resources Management Act.
- Cambodia has a more specific approach to shoreline management, which is employed considering coastal zoning and the need for the economic development of each area

14

## MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING & BLUE ECONOMY IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS REGION

### Blue Economy

*“there is not yet a universally accepted definition of “blue economy,”*

each government agency and organisations are working on describing how they understand the concept and how it should be implemented for their national or organisation's purposes

15

## MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING & BLUE ECONOMY IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS REGION

### Blue Economy

- **United Nations:** representative defined the Blue Economy as an economy that "comprises a range of economic sectors and related policies that together determine whether the use of ocean resources is sustainable
- **World Bank:** sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem.
- **European Commission** defines it as "All economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts. It covers a wide range of interlinked established and emerging sectors
- **China:** the sum of all kinds of activities associated with the development, utilisation and protection of the marine environment.
- **South Korea:** economic activity that takes place in the ocean, puts goods and services into ocean activity, and the activity that uses ocean resources as an input

16

## MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP) AND BLUE ECONOMY IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS REGION

The development of blue economy may be limited by some challenges

- 1) The need to overcome current economic trends that are rapidly degrading coastal marine resources in the interest of economic gains.
- 2) The need to invest in the human capital required to harness the employment and development benefits of investing in innovative blue economy sectors,
- 3) The need to strengthen understanding of the concept "blue economy" and overcome inadequate valuation of marine resources and ecosystem services provided by the oceans and coastal areas

17

## Examples of best practices to protect ocean health & advance blue economy development

- Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Programme (COREMAP) in Indonesia

COREMAP's third phase, known as the "COREMAP-Coral Triangle Initiative (COREMAP-CTI)," expands on the earlier ground-level successes by strengthening Indonesia's oceans research capacity, and aims to provide support for blue economy initiatives such as infrastructure for ecotourism, community surveillance against illegal fishing, and the implementation of national action plan (NAPs) to protect threatened species



18

## Examples of best practices to protect ocean health & advance blue economy development

- Business model : Thailand ecotourism and micro algae farm (Spirulina farming)
- Mariculture for a blue economy: Seaweed cultivation (e.g. China, RO Korea, Thailand and Cambodia)
- Greens Fins in Nha Trang and Khanh Hoa Province, Viet Nam



19

## CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

### 1) Lack of capacity in various areas of MPA establishment & inclusive management:

- ▶ Weak establishment of MPAs through stakeholder engagement processes. **Need for increased stakeholder involvement** in zoning and conflict resolution, and participation with MPA management plan implementation and enforcement.
- ▶ Lack of risk modelling to evaluate and predict **impacts on local livelihoods** from commercial-level blue economy activities as well as MPA establishment that might forget to consider affected populations.
- ▶ Insufficient capacity to **measure co-benefits** derived by investments vs. intangible losses and loss of livelihood valuation when MSP, MPA and blue economy actions are implemented.

20

## CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

### 1) Lack of capacity in various areas of MPA establishment & inclusive management:

- ▶ The need **to improve the livelihoods** of the communities living in and around MPA, and engaging them more deeply in awareness and acceptance to help manage MPAs.
- ▶ Insufficient understanding of people about the **benefits of MPAs**. Some local residents still perceive MPA as an obstacle to local development and a restriction to their economic activities.
- ▶ Insufficient **understanding and awareness** of organisations about MPAs, MPA networks and the integrated MPA to MSP and the blue economy.
- ▶ The need to increase awareness on the **advantages of using nature-based** solutions to regenerate, restore, and maintain MPA services

21

## CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

### 2) Governance of MPAs can still be cumbersome and needs to be better synthesised:

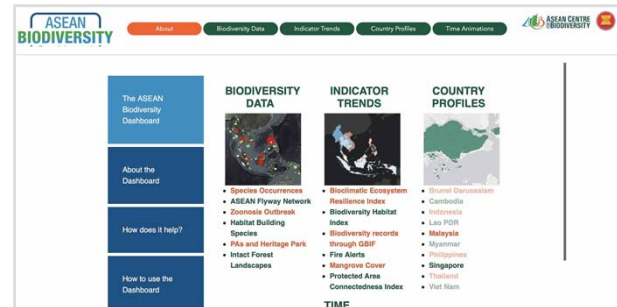
- ▶ **Unclear area of responsibilities** of agencies within some countries that manage MPAs; different agencies have overlapping jurisdiction on MPAs and marine biodiversity conservation, and different ways to define and count MPAs.
- ▶ **No “lead agency”** or integration mechanism in most countries to make a tighter link between MPAs as a tool for wider MSP implementation.
- ▶ **Policies for establishing and managing MPAs** should be updated to formalise the use of nature-based solutions in MPA management.
- ▶ **Lack of long-term funding** from the national organisation(s) responsible for MPA management.

22

## CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

### 3) Updated, more detailed and streamlined information is needed for increased understanding to establish and manage MPA:

- ▶ No consistent MPA database in most countries.
- ▶ “ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity dash board” is a database that contains information on the status of marine biodiversity, MPAs, key biodiversity areas etc., but it needs more data from the countries.



23

## CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

### 4) Environmental and anthropogenic threats to MPAs remain:

- ▶ MPAs still experience threats such as pollution, encroachment, illegal fishing, and climate change impacts.
- ▶ Many MPAs are **very small in size** and not able to protect enough areas of critical habitat.
- ▶ MPAs and nature-based solutions are helping to mitigate impacts from climate change, but there is a lack of parametric insurance payments after natural disasters and other hazards occur like oil spills.

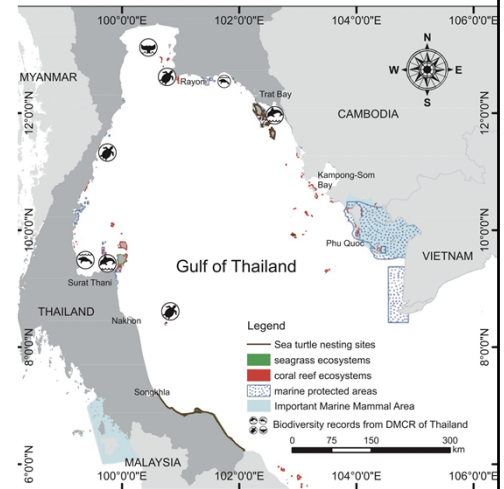


24

## CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

### Opportunities:

- ✓ **Good national and sub-regional examples of MPA networks exist.** These various kinds of MPA network (social, ecological, management-based) can be expanded to pilot new bilateral, sub-regional, and regional MPA networks.
- ✓ Several marine national park areas in Indonesia accommodate habitats of migratory species. This is an opportunity to **create migratory species networks.**
- ✓ Thailand: DMCR had a study on the basics of **transboundary MPA guidelines** (Thai-Myanmar), but no further action plans were solidified. This can be revived to initiate a new MPA network.



25

## CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

### Opportunities:



- ✓ IUCN-MFF started a dialogue between Thailand and Cambodia and on going project of SEAFDEC; it has the potential to improve transboundary habitat, species and fisheries resources (dolphin, short mackerel).
- ✓ Locally managed marine areas (LMMA) are already applied in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. These best practices should be incorporated into any MPA network that is established.

26

## CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

### Opportunities:

- ✓ The ongoing project South China Sea-Strategic Action Programme Implementation (SCS SAP) project is facilitating dialogues on MSP and blue economy. These can be expanded to link implementation in protected areas around the region.
- ✓ The CTI Programme is developing a coral triangle MPA system with a coral triangle atlas and data sets. This information can be used in establishing future MPA networks.
- ✓ UNDP/GEF YSLME Project already started MPA network in Yellow Sea region; the project has ended after 2 phases, but what was started can be expanded with NEAMPAN for MPA network in that part of EAS region

27

## CHALLENGES, OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

### Opportunities:

#### Potential Large Marine Ecosystem MPA networks for the EAS Region



Gulf of Thailand Large Marine Ecosystem



The South China Sea



Yellow Sea

28

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Draft List of Recommendations for MPA work in EAS Region

#### Overview

- 1) Establish “Expert Working Group”
- 2) Capacity building
- 3) Improving MPA governance
- 4) Improving knowledge and increasing access to information for MPA network establishment and management
- 5) More holistic implementation of the next COBSEA Strategic Directions

29

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Establish “Expert Working Group”  
to guide the implementation of COBSEA’s MPA programme



Expert Group can guide actions for MPA network and management from local to regional levels:

- i) Locally managed marine areas (LMMA)
- ii) Cross-boundary network-border areas
- iii) Sub-regional focus on transboundary/migratory species
- iv) Large Marine Ecosystem (LME)

30

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 2) Increase Awareness and Capacity Building

- ▶ Include **MPA as part of MSP**; MPAs to demonstrate how local co-management and blue economy can be streamlined
- ▶ Establish a pool of **“in-region trainers”** (practitioners) to run training programmes on MSP and blue economy.
- ▶ Increase **science- and nature- based decision-making** to establish and manage MPAs so that biodiversity is conserved.
- ▶ Increase capacity in **real-time monitoring** of MPAs, tourism control measures, adaptive management based on monitoring data
- ▶ Increase capacity **for risk modelling and measuring benefits and impacts** from MPA establishment, especially intangible losses and livelihood valuation.
- ▶ Increase awareness of all stakeholders on advantages of MPA networks

31

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 3) Improving MPA Governance

- ▶ Improving management effectiveness of MPAs through application of existing tools from other regions and learning from success stories within the region
- ▶ Drive **financial development policies** to balance investment and nature conservation
- ▶ Have a **well-staffed COBSEA Secretariat** to facilitate project development and drive fund raising with Expert Group advice to implement the recommendations approved by COBSEA IGM 25

32

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 4) Improving knowledge and increasing access to information for MPA network establishment and management

- ▶ A **Master Plan for ocean accounting** can guide the locations of where to set up MPA networks to bring maximum benefits to biodiversity and people living in the area
- ▶ The **Great ("SEA") Blue Wall** Initiative can be adapted and tailored for the EAS region
- ▶ Building blue economy in and around MPAs via community tourism based on best practices such as Green Fins Guidelines. This can contribute to public-private partnership and co-management between dive operators and local communities

33

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 4) Improving knowledge and increasing access to information for MPA network establishment and management

- ▶ Build on the regional MCSP and pilot Blue Solutions training held by COBSEA and DMCR by replicating these efforts in other countries around EAS Region
- ▶ Improve monitoring and management of MPAs through the use of advanced technology such as remote sensing and drone/unmanned aerial and underwater vehicles for research of resources including megafauna (such as sea turtle, whale and dolphin) and surveillance in the coastal area

34

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5) More holistic implementation of the next COBSEA Strategic Directions

- ▶ Implementing the COBSEA Strategic Directions more holistically.
- ▶ Regional projects to be implemented should demonstrate cooperation among the countries in habitat restoration of MPAs while reducing the impacts of land-based pollution and climate change, in parallel with building coastal community resilience.
- ▶ Regional projects on MPAs should include aspects of linking with MSP and blue economy to show benefits to natural and social environments

35

## POTENTIAL DONORS

The establishment of a scientific/advisory group would play a crucial role to move this agenda forward in both technical and funding aspects (Include partners analysis and donors mapping).



- ▶ Support could be sought from multi-lateral, bilateral, and “internal” donors;
- ▶ include governments and development aid agencies in North America, Europe, from within the region : [GEF](#), [ASEAN](#) and [APEC Training Centers](#), [Asian Development Bank](#);
- ▶ donors for climate change issue: [International Climate Initiative \(IKI\)](#)

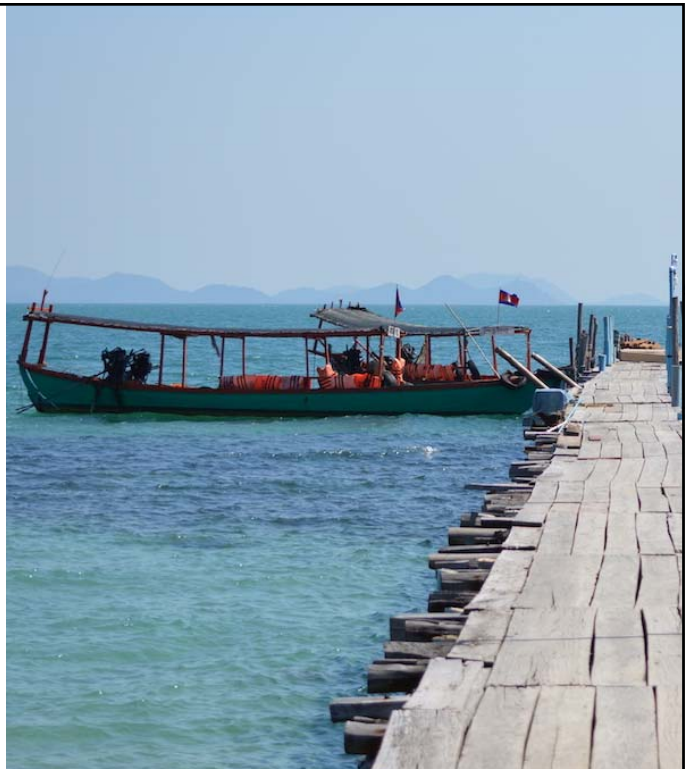
36

## POTENTIAL DONORS

- ▶ donors for MPA: [Ford Foundation](#), [Packard Foundation](#), [Rockefeller](#), [MacArthur](#)
- ▶ to engage in partnership with NGOs: e.g. [WWF](#), [IUCN](#), [Fauna & Flora International \(FFI\)](#), [Wetlands International](#) who work on MPAs and each partner contributes financial and technical know-how and;
- ▶ private sectors: e.g. [seafood company \(Thai Union\)](#), [tour operator \(e.g. TUI, Minor Group\)](#).

37

# Thank you



38