

Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Information Module

Methodology Description

How is your MPA doing?

1.1 Organisation

NOAA/National Ocean Service/IUCN WCPA Marine, WWF

1.2 Primary methodology reference

Pomeroy R, Parks, J and Watson, L (2004) 'How is your MPA doing? A Guidebook of Natural and Social Indicators for Evaluating Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness.' (IUCN, WWF, Gland and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): Gland and Cambridge)

Pomeroy RS, Parks, JE and Watson, LM (2006) 'Cómo evaluar una AMP. Manual de Indicadores Naturales y Sociales para Evaluar la Efectividad de la Gestión de Áreas Marinas Protegidas.' UICN, Gland, Suiza y Cambridge, Reino Unido.

1.3 Brief description of methodology

'How is your MPA doing' is a substantial manual (>200 pages) guiding marine protected area managers in the field of monitoring and evaluation. It provides detailed guidance and advice on assessing all aspects of marine protected area management using a wide range of techniques, within the IUCN-WCPA Framework.

1.4 Purposes

- ✓ **improve management (adaptive management)**
- ✓ for accountability/ audit
- ✓ for prioritisation and resource allocation
- ✓ to raise awareness and support

1.5 Objectives and application

This methodology is intended as a toolbox for managers to monitor and evaluate their own marine protected area (MPA). The guidebook provides detailed advice on developing a system tailored to the needs, goals and objectives of a particular area.

It has been field tested at 17 sites throughout the world and translated into several languages.

1.6 Origins

IUCN (WCPA Marine) and WWF jointly formed the MPS management effectiveness initiative in 2000, and between 2001 and 2003 conducted a series of surveys, workshops and field trials to develop, test and refine the system. The final manual for the methodology was published in 2004 (Pomeroy *et al.* 2004) and is also available in Spanish (Pomeroy *et al.* 2006). The project was also sponsored by NOAA and the Packard Foundation.

1.7 How the methodology is implemented

The manual is intended as a toolbox, and contains numerous indicators and suggested techniques for measuring them. It is intended that the protected area manager organize or coordinate the overall evaluation, though technical experts might be used for various tasks

Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Information Module

Methodology Description

within it. Most of the indicators require collection of field data, either directly or from secondary sources.

The guidebook stresses that techniques are intended to be simple and ‘approachable’ rather than very detailed scientific measurements, and that the system is meant to be applied in conjunction with other scorecards etc to meet the needs of the individual managers.

A number of measurement techniques are suggested for each indicator, and references given for more detailed technical assistance.

1.8 Elements and indicators

All elements of the IUCN-WCPA Framework are covered in the manual. As a ‘toolkit’, this methodology is not prescriptive with respect to indicators, but rather gives guidance and suggestions for possible indicators’ types.

The manual for this system stresses that indicators must be chosen to reflect the goals and objectives of the marine protected area, and to match the purposes and resources available for the evaluation. Each indicator is presented as associated with particular management goals.

The guidebook presents 42 indicators: 10 biophysical, 16 socioeconomic and 16 of governance.

Table 1: Indicators for "How is your marine park doing"

biophysical	Area showing signs of recovery
	food web integrity
	Recruitment success within the community
	Composition and structure of the community
	Habitat distribution complexity
	water quality
	Focal species abundance
	Area under no or reduced human impact
	Focal species population structure
	Type, level and return on fishing effort
socioeconomic	Local marine resource use patterns
	quality of human health
	percentage of stakeholder group in leadership
	distribution of formal knowledge to community
	stakeholder knowledge of natural history
	number and nature of markets
	community infrastructure and business
	household income distribution by source
	changes in conditions of ancestral and historical sites, features or monuments
	material style of life
	perception of non-market and non-use value
	perception of local resource harvest
	perception of seafood availability
	Level of understanding of human impacts on resources
Local values and beliefs regarding marine resources	
governance	occupational structure
	availability and allocation of administrative resources
	proportion of stakeholders trained in sustainable use
	degree of interaction between managers and stakeholders

Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Information Module

Methodology Description

	existence and application of scientific research and input
	existence and adequacy of enabling legislation
	local understanding of MPA rules and regulations
	existence and adoption of a management plan
	existence of an MPA decision-making and management body
	existence and activity level of community organisations
	level of training provided to stakeholders in participation
	level of stakeholder participation and satisfaction in management process and activities
	level of stakeholder involvement in surveillance, monitoring and enforcement
	clearly defined enforcement procedures
	number and variety of patrols per time period per unit area
	degree of information dissemination to encourage stakeholder compliance
	Level of resource conflict

1.9 Scoring and analysis

Scoring systems vary, as answers may be qualitative/ descriptive, scores or measurement. Outputs range from species abundance profiles, habitat maps, and graphs to descriptions of human impacts and threat indexes.

[Download the 'How is your MPA doing?' methodology.](#)