

# Scaling Up To MPA Networks



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Start Where You Are: Building MPA Networks  
Tiburon CA  
June 21, 2010

# Key Challenge

How to get from general principles to practical actions that go beyond the establishment of single or groups of MPA sites to scaling up to MPA networks.

# What is an MPA Network?

**An MPA network can be defined as:**

**a collection of individual MPAs or reserves operating cooperatively and synergistically, at various spatial scales, and with a range of protection**

**(IUCN 2007)**

# Types of MPA Networks

- Ecological Networks - focused on natural connections between
- Social Networks - coordination among stakeholders and communities
- Management Networks – more effective administration and operations

# How should MPA Networks operate?

- **Respects and protects** the ecological interconnectedness between and within ecosystems
- **Strengthens the resilience** of the ecological systems to maintain key functions and processes
- **Functions as a coordinated system** of MPAs

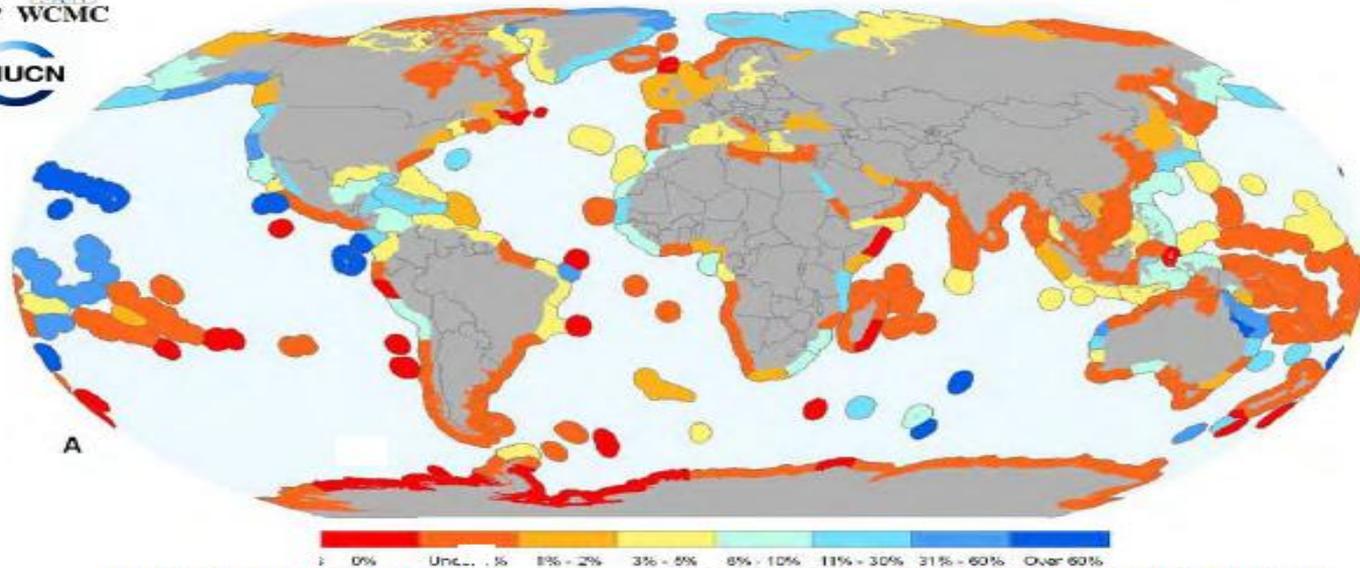
# Why Scale Up?

The Nature Conservancy  
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

UNEP WCMC

IUCN

## New assessment of “Representative” protection of the world’s coasts and oceans



- Half of all ecoregions have <1% coverage
- Temperate realms have lowest coverage

Spalding M., Fish L. & Wood L. (2008) Towards representative protection of the world's coasts and oceans – progress, gaps and opportunities. *Conservation Letters*, 1, 217-226

# Natural England Example

What can a MPA network achieve for biodiversity conservation:

- Protection of endangered species
- Contribution to the health of the wider marine ecosystem
- Must be of significant scale, connected, representative, replicated permanent and coherent

# What can we hope to achieve by scaling up to MPA Networks?

Principle based design will help:

- Stem the loss of marine resources and recovery of entire ecosystems
- Magnify benefits of individual sites
- Protect large-scale processes
- Slow the loss of endangered marine species, and other resources
- Restore depleted fisheries
- Engage multiple stakeholders / Benefit from other site's experiences

# MPA Networks



# Important Aspects of MPA Network Design

- Ecological
- Economic
- Social
- Spatial
- Temporal
- Scientific
- Institutional/governance

# Ecological Aspects

- Take a fully representative approach
- Define the ecological objectives of your MPA network
- Make best use of available and surrogate information
- Develop and agree on the design principles for your network

# Economic Aspects

- Understand the current and future economic setting of your MPA network
- Define the objectives of your MPA network to ensure economic sustainability
- Identify actions that will minimize costs and maximize positive benefits
- Communicate the economic costs and benefits of MPA networks and their contributions to sustainable development

# Spatial Aspects

- Recognize that MPA networks should be nested within a wider integrated management framework
- Understand the spatial dimension of the resource being managed
- Define network objectives consistent with spatial scales relevant to the managed area
- Recognize that effective MPA networks will require ecologically-meaningful management frameworks
- Develop accessible and agreed baseline data set

# Temporal Aspects

- Develop MPA networks to have resilience in the face of long-term geophysical and biochemical changes
- Design networks to recognize and address 'shifting baselines'
- Recognize the longer these networks are left to function, the more benefits will be generated
- Recognize that building effective networks is an incremental process

# Institutional and Governance Aspects

- Develop and maintain effective coordination and linkages across sectors and jurisdictions
- Define clear and shared management goals and objectives for the network
- Develop and maintain long-term political support
- Develop, secure and sustain adequate resources including finances and staff
- Ensure an adequate and effective legal and institutional framework
- Recognize, develop and maintain the institutional mechanisms for effective engagement

# Sustainable Finance

## Ingredients of financial sustainability

- *Building diverse portfolios*
- *Sharing costs and management responsibilities*
- *Establishing coordinated administrative and governance systems*
- *Sustained political support for implementation*

# Stakeholder Engagement

- Inclusive
- Collaborative
- Fair

Example: Finding Sanctuary -

Southwest England MPA Network web-based community mapping of potential sites based on Guidelines developed to frame the planning process

# Next steps

- More guidance and demonstration of best practice
- Greater collaboration, especially at regional and transboundary level
- Evaluation: Are MPA networks effectively achieving more than what single sites alone can
- Capacity building

