

Evaluation Abstract

Title, author and date of the evaluation report:

Mid-Term Review: Hon Mun Marine Protected Area Project, Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam, prepared by Charles N. Ehler, Chu Hoi Nguyen and Le Hoa Nguyen, August 2003

Name of project, programme or organizational unit:

Hon Mun Marine Protected Area Project

Objectives of the project, programme or mandate of the organizational unit:

The project aims at conserving a representative example of internationally significant and threatened marine biodiversity. Its specific objective is to enable local island communities to improve their livelihoods and, in partnership with other stakeholders, effectively protect and manage the marine biodiversity at Hon Mun as a model of collaborative marine protected area (MPA) management in Vietnam.

IUCN area of specialisation: Marine Biodiversity; Protected Areas

Geographical area: Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam

Project or programme duration, length of existence of organisational unit:

Phase I (June 2001 - December 2002); Phase II (January 2003 - June 2005)

Overall budget of the project, programme or organizational unit: USD 2.2 million

Donor(s): World Bank / Global Environmental Facility (GEF); Danida; IUCN; Government of Vietnam

Objectives of the evaluation:

To review the Project's "Set-up" Phase.

Type of evaluation: Mid-Term Project Evaluation

Period covered by the evaluation: June 2001 – December 2002

Commissioned by: Danida and World Bank/GEF

Audience: Donors, project team, IUCN

Evaluation team: External

Methodology used:

The Evaluation Team reviewed key documents, including two evaluations previously conducted by the World Bank and Danida; paid two field visits to Nha Trang and the island villages of Nha Trang Bay; and conducted formal and informal interviews with about 30 national, provincial, and community stakeholders.

Questions of the evaluation:

The evaluation focused on aspects of project implementation related to 1) MPA management and 2) community involvement.

Findings:

The evaluation report contains a comprehensive list of findings on project progress. Its general conclusions are as follows:

- The Project is well on its way to achieving its stated objective (see above);
- It has been well planned and managed, with project documents clearly outlining objectives, performance measures, indicators, and outputs;
- Nearly all Phase I benchmarks have been achieved;
- The Project has been successful in involving local communities in planning and capacity building;
- While challenges remain, innovative alternative income generation activities have been promoted, particularly for local fishermen.

Recommendations:

The Review Team has identified a series of recommended actions, including:

- Energizing the National Steering Committee;
- Completing the draft management plan;
- Improving compliance monitoring and enforcement;
- Ensuring a smooth transition from project management to MPA management authority;
- Encouraging alternative income generation activities and community access to credit;
- Increasing local participation in MPA management.

Lessons Learned:

Not specified.

Language of the evaluation: English

Available from: IUCN Global Monitoring and Evaluation Initiative, Gland, Switzerland; IUCN/Asia Regional Office (ARO)