



**Ocean  
Governance**



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Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems, catalysts  
for building peace and security and fostering sustainable  
economies, South Asia and Atlantic Ocean basin

## Project fact sheet

### August 2020



#### Quick facts

**Project Director** Nadia Moutawakkil, GOPA Consultants

**Partner Organisations** B&S Europe, WWF Indonesia

**Project duration** 36 months, starting January 2020

**Budget** EUR 7 million

**Regions involved** South East Asia, Atlantic basin

**Topics** Ocean Governance, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Networking, Restoration of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems, Marine and Coastal Resilience, Marine Migratory Species, Transboundary Cooperation

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## Project background

The project was set up to meet European Union (EU) objectives set out in the EU Joint Communication on International Ocean Governance and the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy. It will contribute to delivering on EU global commitments under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD).

The project builds on the experience of the Transatlantic MPA project funded by the EU (2016-19), which promoted a transatlantic partnership through developing partnerships and twinning activities between marine protected areas in the Atlantic basin.

The EU recognises the contribution of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to tackling biodiversity loss and climate change impacts in marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as to food security, economic wellbeing and livelihoods of local populations in coastal areas.

### MPAs as catalysts

**As oceans have no borders, marine protected areas can play a catalytic role in promoting stability through fostering better cooperation and understanding between countries and communities in cross-border regions.**

## Project

The project will undertake activities to protect and restore marine and coastal ecosystems and foster cooperation and security in South East Asia. It will build partnerships between MPAs in this region and in the Atlantic Basin to support the promotion and exchange of knowledge. The three-year project will bring together networks of MPA managers, MPA managers, national and local administrations, regional organisations, local communities, the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

## Objective

The project's objective is to increase the EU's role as a global actor in international ocean governance by fostering regional and interregional cooperation relevant to the protection and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems.

### Governance and the environment

**Over-exploitation, climate change, acidification and pollution pose major threats to the marine environment leading to a decline in biodiversity and ecosystem degradation. Through coordination and focusing on specific regions and projects, Ocean Governance can be used as a tool to address these threats and their consequences for the marine environment.**

## Purpose

- ~To advance a process leading to enhanced cooperation of MPAs in and between the Atlantic and South East Asian regions
- ~To support the implementation of marine and coastal ecosystem restoration activity in the South East Asian region
- ~To facilitate broader regional cooperation on marine and coastal resilience in the South East Asian region with a view to underpin regional stability
- ~To contribute to the effective management of MPAs in the Atlantic and South East Asian regions



## Components

1. Increased knowledge and practice of protecting and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems in three selected areas of marine protected areas in the South East Asian region
2. Improved management of marine protected areas around the Atlantic Ocean using the concept of shared environmental protection
3. Strengthened knowledge exchange between Atlantic and South East Asian marine and coastal regions
4. Improved basis for dialogue among marine and coastal stakeholders in the South East Asian region

## Activities

### Component 1

#### **Increased knowledge and practice of protecting and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems in three selected areas of marine protected areas in the South East Asian region**

Over three billion people worldwide depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods, and the market value of marine and coastal resources and industries is estimated at about 5% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, marine and coastal ecosystems face intense pressures – from overfishing, unsustainable fishing practices, land-based sources of pollution and climate change. Protecting and restoring key ecosystems is thus vital to the security and stability of food, livelihoods, economies and global biodiversity.

The project is selecting sites for restoration in the ‘Coral Triangle’, an area in South East Asia with the highest concentration of marine species on the planet. Sites will be located in the Sulu Sulawesi seascape, one of the most diverse and productive marine ecosystems in the world, shared by Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Restoration sites and methods will be selected according to the current international standards and knowledge, with activities building on lessons learned in the region and worldwide. Activities may include the creation of artificial habitats (e.g. artificial reefs), the planting of mangrove trees or seagrass and the maintenance of key nursery habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves, salt marshes or seagrass meadows.







## Component 2

### **Improved management of marine protected areas around the Atlantic Ocean using the concept of shared environmental protection**

This project will build on the previous EU-funded MPA transatlantic project to build dialogue around the Atlantic Basin by developing partnerships between MPAs to improve their effective management. It will provide continuity to the three twinning projects already established:

- ~Cooperation and common strategy between MPA networks of managers in the Atlantic region
- ~MPAs and coastal resilience, coping with rapid changes
- ~Marine mammals' protection, a way to enhance transatlantic cooperation between MPAs

The twinning partnerships will be extended to broaden their geographical representation in particular in African countries, and expand the north-south aspect. The effectiveness of MPA management will be improved through the provision of key scientific information, the exchange of knowledge among MPA managers, and the elaboration of a good practice guidance for them.

## Component 3

### **Strengthened knowledge exchange between Atlantic and South East Asian marine and coastal regions**

The project will enable knowledge-sharing by project partners within and between the Atlantic and South East Asian marine and coastal regions. Two regional workshops will be organised at restoration sites in South East Asia. An additional workshop will take place in Brussels as part of the project's final conference. The regional workshops will focus on sharing knowledge on practical topics, such as coral reef management, rehabilitation of marine and coastal ecosystems, policy support of MPA networks or transboundary protected area management.

## Component 4

### **Improved basis for dialogue among marine and coastal stakeholders in the South East Asian region**

Closely connected to the other components, the objective of this component is to improve dialogue between stakeholders that share common marine and coastal resources in South East Asia. To this end, the project will create a platform for dialogue to promote networking among actors and stakeholders in marine conservation.

## Transboundary conservation benefits

**Linking conservation efforts across country borders improves connectivity and resilience of ecosystems and species, secures migratory corridors and the habitats of migratory species and generates potential socio-cultural and economic benefits for people.**

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