



Design a sanctuary

Background reading for teachers

This reading gives you the background for each slide, with sources you can check.

Targets and reality

The 1998 Fisheries Code calls for 15% of coastal municipal waters, which extend 15 km from the coastline, to be protected in no-take MPAs. A 2010 national analysis of nearly 1,000 MPAs found that only 0.5% of municipal waters and 2.7 to 3.4% of coral reef area were in no-take MPAs, that 85% of no-take area was in just two sites, and that 90% of MPAs were smaller than 1 km². The same study found distances between MPAs were generally small enough for larval connectivity, which is an opportunity for networks.¹

What makes a sanctuary work

The NEOLI study found reserves with four or five of its features (no take, enforced, old, large, isolated) performed far better, while most reserves with only one or two were indistinguishable from fished sites.² In Philippine practice, community support, enforcement by local wardens (Bantay Dagat), sustainable funding and regular monitoring are the recurring ingredients of success, as the Apo Island story shows.

The map

Barangay Dagatan is fictional. The map places mangroves near a river mouth, seagrass on either side, a fringing reef with two dive sites, fishing grounds offshore and a main current running west to east. There is no single right answer. The point is the reasoning.

Sources

1. Weeks, R. and others (2010). Effectiveness of marine protected areas in the Philippines for biodiversity conservation. *Conservation Biology* 24(2): 531-540.
2. Edgar, G.J. and others (2014). Global conservation outcomes depend on marine protected areas with five key features. *Nature* 506: 216-220.
3. Republic Act 8550 (1998), the Philippine Fisheries Code, as amended by Republic Act 10654 (2015).

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