

Recompilación de:

MPAConnect Management Capacity Elements - Tier and Priority Results for 2011 and 2017 (<https://arcg.is/1rTmz4>)

Recompilado para el "Curso de Tarjetas de Reporte para la Evaluación de Socio-Ecosistemas en Cuba (ECOVALOR)" como ejemplos de umbrales y su definición para indicadores enfocados hacia gestión y manejo.

Indicator with explanation and thresholds

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ON SITE MANAGEMENT

This assessment area evaluates the physical absence or presence of staff at the MPA site.

Tier 1: No management personnel assigned to site and/or little or no formalized community oversight

- In tier one sites, there are no specific staff or designated community members responsible for the oversight of the MPA.

Tier 2: Some management personnel assigned to site or some formalized community oversight

- In tier two sites, there may be staff that work out of a central office and visit the site occasionally to carry out activities, but there are no “on-site staff” physically stationed at or in the vicinity of the site. Sites that have a manager who is responsible for multiple sites, and is physically located at a central office or at one of the other sites would qualify as tier two sites.

Tier 3: Full-time site manager and programmatic personnel assigned to site or local community based management leader in place that has been formally designated and accepted and is able to dedicate sufficient time to the management of the site

- In tier three sites, there is a full-time site manager who is physically stationed in the vicinity of the site or local community members living at a co-managed site who are able to formally carry out management activities (outreach, surveillance, monitoring, etc.)

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Having sufficient and capable staff is critical to the successful management of any MPA and in many cases it may be the greatest determiner of MPA success.

Tier 1: The MPA staff complement is very limited and/or staff has inadequate skills and knowledge to effectively carry out management

- In tier one MPAs, there is an inadequate number of staff assigned to achieve primary site objectives and/ or existing staff do not have the skills and knowledge that are necessary to effectively execute their positions.

Tier 2: The MPA staff complement is inconsistent in numbers, skills and/or knowledge to effectively carry out management

- In tier two sites, these capacities are inconsistent meaning that due to high staff turnover or unreliable funding, management is unable to retain a consistent complement of enough capable staff to achieve primary site objectives.

Tier 3: The MPA staff complement is adequate and has proper skills and knowledge to effectively carry out management

- Tier three sites are characterized by a sustained complement of staff that is adequate in number with no major gaps that influence ability to carry out key program elements. Sites at the highest tier of capacity in this area also have well trained and knowledgeable staff that are able to successfully execute their scopes of work.

MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The management plan is often considered to be the foundation of an MPA management program as it states the mission, goals, and objectives of an MPA and identifies the specific actions that should be carried out in order to achieve these goals and objectives and therefore effectively manage the site. Having a management plan is considered one of the key components of a successful MPA management program as it can serve to guide activities in a strategic direction to achieve site goals.

An additional question under this assessment area asks if the objectives in the MPA management plan reflect the original purpose of the site or why it was designated. A disconnect between the intended purpose of an MPA and its management plan can lead to the ineffective management of the area and a failure to achieve desired outcomes.

Tier 1: Some management activity being implemented, but no management plan in place

- In tier one, although some activities (e.g. enforcement, outreach, monitoring, etc.) may be occurring, they are being identified and implemented in an opportunistic manner and are not being driven by a strategic plan.

Tier 2: Some management activity being implemented and management plan developed

- In tier two, activities are occurring and a plan has been developed, but those activities are not necessarily driven by the plan. Sites which fall under tier two in this assessment area often have had a management plan developed for them, but the plan is not actively referred to or applied. The management activities that are being implemented may have been ongoing before the plan was developed. If the site has a management plan but it is considered a draft plan and has not been formally approved where local mechanisms for such approval exist, then tier two would apply.

Tier 3: Approved management plan that is being implemented

- In tier three, a management plan exists and is being implemented. The site managers and/ or site staff or responsible community members are referring to the plan and making strategic decisions about the implementation of management activities in the site.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This assessment area aims to evaluate the legal and regulatory framework for the site. The NOAA-GCFI MPA Capacity Building Partnership is aimed at legally designated sites. Therefore, tier one status entails that the site is legally established but DOES NOT HAVE any specific rules and regulations to support the MPA goals and objectives.

It is important to remember that in some cases, new rules and regulations are developed through the management planning process but might not have proper legislative backing. In this instance a legal review and revisions to relevant laws or approval of new legislation may be needed to fully support the site rules. The interviewee should discuss this with site managers to understand the enforceability of the rules and regulations of the site.

Tier 1: Few or no official rules and/or regulations in place governing the MPA

- In tier one, the site is legally established but DOES NOT HAVE any specific rules and regulations to support the MPA goals and objectives.

Tier 2: Some laws or official rules and/or regulations governing some managed activities within the MPA

- In tier two, the site is legally established and there are some rules and regulations governing only SOME of the specific uses and activities targeted in the MPAs management objectives. For example, while it may be a goal to manage the multiple uses of a site such as boating, diving, and fishing; rules might only exist to regulate fishing activity.

Tier 3: Clearly defined laws, rules and regulations governing all managed activities included in the objectives of the site management plan

- In tier three, there are rules and regulations to govern ALL major uses and activities addressed in the management objectives of the site. In this case, the activities in the management plan are legally backed by enforceable policies.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

Strong partnerships and effective coordination with partners are critical in MPAs where the management authority has insufficient resources and personnel to dedicate towards the implementation of management strategies. These may be partnerships or coordinated efforts with fellow resource management agencies in various levels of government (national, local, etc.), law enforcement agencies or with non-governmental entities and community organizations.

Tier 1: One agency managing the site with little or no coordination with other pertinent agencies or organizations

- MPAs at tier one capacity for this assessment area have a single management authority governing the site that is not coordinating efforts with pertinent governmental and/or non-governmental partners that could and should assist with management efforts.

Tier 2: Informal partnerships with agencies or organizations who support MPA management activities (e.g. outreach, monitoring, enforcement, livelihoods)

- In tier two you may have informal partnerships with entities who are assisting with one or few select activities related to MPA management objectives such as community outreach programs or volunteer enforcement/reporting efforts, but these relationships are opportunistic, may be tenuous and are not formally institutionalized into the MPA management program to ensure long term commitment and sustainability.

Tier 3: Formal coordination with the relevant agencies and organizations

- MPAs at tier three level capacity in this area have established formal agreements with other agencies and organizations which clearly define the nature of the management partnership and how coordination on management efforts occurs, or the management roles for these partner entities have been defined in key MPA management documents such as the designating legislation and/or the management plan.

ENFORCEMENT

Tier 1: Little or no enforcement of existing rules and regulations

- In tier one sites, there is an overall lack of enforcement. This may be because there are no rules and regulations governing specific activities within the MPA, or due to a lack of enforcement staff and/or resources to monitor compliance with existing rules and regulations.

Tier 2: Inconsistent enforcement of rules and regulations

- The second and third tiers explore varying degrees of enforcement of the site with the only difference being that tier two has inconsistent enforcement activity (lack of regularly scheduled patrols, lack of a regular presence at the site, etc.) and tier three has deliberate and regular enforcement activity.

Tier 3: Active and consistent enforcement of rules and regulations

- See Tier 2 description above

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

It is widely recognized that stakeholder engagement in MPA management processes and efforts is critical for success. As such, this question is aimed at understanding how involved local stakeholders are in the management of the MPA including both the development of MPA management plans and the implementation of management strategies and activities. This could include activities such as community watch programs to complement enforcement efforts or community lead outreach and education activities. This question can be used to gauge the interest of managers in building stakeholder engagement programs and processes.

Tier 1: No community or stakeholder engagement

- In the first tier, there is little to no stakeholder involvement in any aspect of the management of the MPA.

Tier 2: Some community and stakeholder engagement in some but not all relevant aspects of MPA management

- In tier two, there is some level of stakeholder participation in either management planning or management plan implementation. This assessment area assumes that a management plan exists for the site or that a planning process is underway, as this is a starting point for stakeholder engagement and one of the critical steps in which stakeholders should be involved (i.e. through developing the site vision, targets, threats, objectives, actions, etc.). However, there may be cases where a plan is not in place or in development, but stakeholder engagement activities are still occurring (e.g. outreach, monitoring, etc). In this case, the facilitator should discuss the option of indicating that the site is at tier two in this assessment area, but include details about existing stakeholder activities in the comments. This could identify the need again for capacity support to develop a management plan for the site as a first step, and to include stakeholders in the development of that plan.

Tier 3: Community and stakeholder engagement in implementation of site management efforts

- In tier three, stakeholders are also well integrated into the management program and their role in implementing relevant and appropriate management activities is well defined.

BOUNDARIES

The intention of this assessment area is to understand if the geographical boundaries (e.g. through GPS points or specific land markers) have been defined and if they have been made available to public. Additionally, the tiers make reference to “zones”. If the site includes various zones with different allowable activities in different areas within the bigger MPA, the location and boundaries of the zones should also be clearly defined and marked for the public.

Tier 1: No clearly defined boundaries delineating the MPA nor clearly defined zones within the MPA

- Sites in tier one do not have specific boundaries and/or zones that have been defined in any way.

Tier 2: Clearly defined boundaries and/or zones but they are not readily visible nor explicitly communicated to the public and/or MPA stakeholders

- Sites in tier two have defined boundaries and/or zones either in the legislation that established the area or in the site management plan, but they may not be easily understood by the public (i.e. there are no maps which clearly show where the boundaries are and have been made readily available to the public and there are no markers and/or signage that clearly demarcate the site).

Tier 3: Clearly defined boundaries and/or zones and information on boundary/zone locations is readily visible and explicitly communicated to the public and MPA stakeholders

- In tier three sites the boundaries are well defined and the information is readily available to the public (i.e. there are maps which clearly show where the boundaries are and these maps have been made readily available to the public; and/or there are visible markers and/or signage that clearly demarcate the site).

BIOPHYSICAL ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

This assessment area seeks to evaluate the degree of bio-physical monitoring occurring at the site and how the information that results from that monitoring effort is being used.

As part of the discussion with managers and site staff, facilitators should try to understand what specific biological information is being collected and why; and whether or not the information being collected is based on the goals and objectives of the site. This can lead to a better understanding of the capacity of the site to reach tier three status.

Tier 1: Little or no existing biophysical monitoring activity

- In the first tier, the site may have had a baseline assessment of habitat, species or other biophysical resources at some point, but there are no repeated observations of the status of these resources and therefore there is no on-going monitoring occurring.

Tier 2: Existing biophysical monitoring program but data not being used to inform management

- In the second tier the site has an on-going monitoring program. This could include opportunistic monitoring or a defined monitoring plan that has been developed and regular monitoring of the status and condition of the resources within the MPA. Tier two would also include sites where a monitoring plan has been developed (or has been suggested in the MPA management plan) but is not being implemented.

Tier 3: Data produced from biophysical monitoring program being evaluated and used to inform management decisions

- The third tier is achieved when the results of the monitoring effort are being applied to inform management activities through adaptive management.

SOCIOECONOMIC ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

Similar to the previous assessment area on biophysical monitoring, the aim of this area is to understand the degree of socioeconomic monitoring occurring at the site and how the resulting information is being used.

As part of the discussion with managers and site staff, facilitators should try to understand what specific socioeconomic information is being collected, why and whether or not the information being collected is based on the goals and objectives of the site. This can lead to a better understanding of the capacity of the site to reach tier three status.

Tier 1: Little or no existing socioeconomic monitoring activity

- In the first tier, the site may have had some kind of socioeconomic assessment such as an economic valuation study or social survey at some point; but there are no repeated observations of socioeconomic conditions or indicators and therefore there is no monitoring occurring.

Tier 2: Existing socioeconomic monitoring program but data not begin used to inform management

- In the second tier the site has a socioeconomic monitoring program. This entails repeated observations of identified social indicators and could be based on a socioeconomic monitoring plan that has been developed for the site.

Tier 3: Data produced from socioeconomic monitoring program being evaluated and used to inform management decisions

- The third tier is achieved when the results of the monitoring effort are being applied to inform management activities through adaptive management.

EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

This assessment area explores if and how the site evaluates whether or not the MPA goals and objectives are being achieved and whether or not any specific effectiveness evaluation tools are being used (eg. “How is Your MPA Doing?”).

This assessment area is linked to assessment areas 8 and 9. If the site is at tier three in both of the previous questions, meaning the information being collected is directly correlated to their management plan objectives, and the data is being used to inform adaptive management strategies; then MPA effectiveness is indeed being evaluated. However, some sites may not have on-going biophysical or socioeconomic monitoring programs but are making effort to evaluate the site at given time periods and are using a specific tool to look at various indicators of effectiveness. It is good for the facilitator to explore how the site evaluates whether or not the MPA goals and objectives are being achieved and whether or not any specific effectiveness evaluation tools are being used.

Tier 1: No evaluation of MPA effectiveness

- In tier one sites there is no effort to evaluate whether or not the MPA goals and objectives are being met.

Tier 2: MPA effectiveness evaluated but no ongoing effectiveness monitoring and evaluation program in place

- In tier two sites there is some effort to evaluate whether or not the MPA goals and objectives are being met, but this information is not being applied to inform changes in management strategies.

Tier 3: MPA effectiveness monitoring and evaluation program in place with findings being applied to adapt management strategies

- In tier three sites there is some effort to evaluate whether or not the MPA goals and objectives are being met, and this information is being used to inform changes in management strategies.

FINANCING

This assessment area is aimed at understanding the sources of funding provided for MPA management.

Tier 1: Few or no reliable source of funding identified to support MPA management activities

- The key word in tier one is “reliable” which means some kind of on-going financial commitment. For example, if a site has only received funds for individual projects through short term grants, then they would likely be in tier one because the funding sources are not on-going or reliable.

Tier 2: Some sources of funding to support MPA management activities

- The second tier states that the site does have access to on-going funding, although it might not be nearly enough to fully manage the site. Tier two would also include sites where a sustainable finance plan has been developed but is not being implemented to ensure long term support for the MPA.

Tier 3: A sustainable financing plan that is being implemented to provide long term MPA financing mechanisms

- Finally, the third tier describes a case where there is a deliberate effort to provide sustainable financing for site management activities. These sources could include user fees, conservation tax funds or a conservation trust fund that supports MPA management.

COMMUNICATING ECONOMIC VALUE

The valuation of natural resources in terms of economic benefit is a useful and persuasive tool when communicating with elected officials and government leaders and other decision makers regarding the actual value of the marine ecosystems that MPAs have been established to conserve and in justifying the need to support the effective management of these MPAs. It can also be used by management and enforcement programs to inform natural resource damage assessments where reference values are needed for application in the calculation of damage to the reef such as from vessel groundings.

Tier 1: Economic value of the MPAs natural resources has not been assessed

- In tier one sites there have been no values generated for the MPAs resources, ecosystems nor the services they provide that can be used in such communications.

Tier 2: Economic value of the MPAs natural resources has been assessed but not used in targeted communications with decision makers

- In tier two, economic studies have been completed providing these values, but the outputs and reports are not being applied or shared with decision makers to garner support for the MPA.

Tier 3: Economic value of the MPAs natural resources has been assessed and is used in targeted communications with decision makers to build support for the MPA

- In tier three, values have been generated and they are being incorporated in messaging to relevant leaders in an effort to sustain or increase resourcing and support for MPA management, including collection of fines for damages to coral reefs.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

This assessment area is intended to draw out information on the amount and type of outreach and education activities that occur at the site. Meaningful and targeted communications in support of the MPA are central to effective MPA management, underpinning stakeholder engagement and helping to build compliance with MPA regulations.

Tier 1: Few or no ongoing outreach and education activities

- The first tier explains that no (or little) ongoing outreach and education activities occur. This may mean that there have been some outreach events that have occurred but that these were one-time events and no ongoing activities exist, or that the site is used by the management agency for public events related to their mission and programs but that these events are not targeted at achieving specific goals and objectives for that site.

Tier 2: Some ongoing outreach and education activities in support of the MPA

- The second and third tiers describe a situation where there are continual outreach and education activities that directly support the MPA. This means that the outreach and education occurring at the site or for the site is not a general outreach activity carried out by the management agency but is specific to supporting the MPA goals. The difference between tiers two and three is that tier two level sites may have ongoing activities but they are not necessarily designed as a program. Tier three level sites have outreach and education programs with defined target audiences, messages and strategies. For example, a tier three MPA might include an outreach or communications strategy that targets users in order to build compliance both in the immediate term (targeting fishermen with ecological information that helps them understand the purpose of the site, or outreach to boaters on mooring protocols) or in the long term (through youth education programs to build a sense of stewardship in future generations).

Tier 3: An outreach and education program with various activities and strategies focused on the MPA that helps achieve the MPAs goals and objectives

- See Tier 2 description above

PLANNING FOR RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change as a key threat to our marine ecosystems, especially coral reefs, has unfortunately become an undeniable reality for which marine resource managers must prepare. As managers become familiar with the concepts of ecosystem resilience and climate change response and adaptation, it is desired that new MPAs will be designed and/or existing sites will be managed to promote ecosystem resilience, allow for climate change adaptation and prepare for climate change response. Management strategies could include zoning or specific protections for reef areas that have shown resilience to past bleaching events, protections of representative habitats within the MPA (e.g. reef, seagrass, mangrove), coordination with relevant management authorities to reduce or eliminate other stressors to coral reefs during bleaching or disease events and the protection of additional coastal and marine areas to allow for migration of species and habitats such as mangroves with sea level rise.

Tier 1: Little or no consideration of climate change in the management of the MPA.

- Tier one sites under this assessment area have little to no consideration for these principles in their management plans or programs. These may be older sites that were established before the concept of resilience to climate change was introduced to the MPA and coral reef management communities and for which no effort has been made to update management plans or activities in preparation for or response to the threat of climate change.

Tier 2: Climate change considerations incorporated into management planning and/or monitoring

- In tier two sites there might be some effort to plan for climate change adaptation, opportunistically monitor the effects of climate change or educate the public about resource impacts related to climate change; but there are no active efforts to build ecosystem resilience, nor is there capacity to conduct an organized response to climate change related events and impacts.

Tier 3: Climate change adaptation plans or response plans implemented

- The management plans and programs for tier three sites include actions that are intended to support resilient reef resources and there has been intentional effort to update management plans or activities with the explicit purpose of preparing for or responding to climate change impacts or site specific response and/or adaptation plans have been developed and there is capacity to implement them.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

In some cases, the implementation of an MPA can negatively impact the livelihoods of specific user groups with a prime example being commercial fishers who have historically extracted marine species from the area and are no longer permitted to do so. In such cases, programs and efforts to help encourage the development of additional opportunities for these user groups either within or outside of the MPA can build public and local community support for the area and reduce user conflicts and enforcement demands. This assessment area may not be relevant in all MPA sites and should only be completed for sites where user groups have been displaced by the implementation of the MPA.

Tier 1: No livelihood opportunities have been developed with stakeholders

- In tier one, MPA resource users have been displaced but there has been no effort on the part of the managing authority to develop alternative or supplemental livelihood opportunities for those users.

Tier 2: Some livelihood opportunities have been developed with stakeholders

- In tier two while there may not be a complete understanding of the social and economic impacts of the MPA on local communities, some activities have been implemented that help encourage alternative or supplemental livelihood opportunities for affected users.

Tier 3: The social and economic impacts of the MPA on resource users have been assessed and livelihood opportunities have been developed with stakeholders

- Management at tier three sites have been able to assess socioeconomic impacts of the MPA on local communities or specific user groups, have worked with these stakeholders to encourage the development of new livelihood opportunities or facilitate their transition into existing alternative livelihoods.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

This assessment area may not be relevant in all MPA sites and should only be completed for sites where the management of targeted fisheries is an explicit goal of the MPA.

Tier 1: No site-specific fisheries assessment has been conducted

- In tier one sites, although the MPA seeks to manage fishing activity (including commercial, ornamental, recreational, cultural and/or subsistence fishing), there has been no effort to assess targeted fish populations within the MPA to enable the development of measurable objectives and the evaluation of MPA effectiveness.

Tier 2: Site-specific fisheries assessment has been conducted but no fisheries management actions are being implemented in the MPA

- For tier two status, site-specific fisheries assessments for targeted species have been conducted and specific fisheries management objectives may have been developed and incorporated into a management plan; but no fisheries management actions are being implemented in the MPA to support those objectives.

Tier 3: A site-specific fisheries management program is being implemented

- In tier three, specific fisheries regulations and/or management actions for the MPA have been developed based on fisheries assessment and are being implemented to achieve specific and measurable objectives.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Pollution is a significant threat to coral reef ecosystems. MPAs that are adjacent to populated coastal areas are often impacted by land based sources of pollution such as sediment, nutrients and toxins. Pollution that is either generated in the marine environment such as waste from boats or is carried via the marine environment to the MPA from afar such as marine debris and microplastics can also negatively affect natural resources targeted for protection by MPAs. In such sites, management efforts to reduce or eliminate these pollutants are essential in order to achieve desired environmental outcomes. This assessment area may not be relevant in all MPA sites and should only be completed for sites where pollution may be impacting targeted resources.

Tier 1: Assessments of pollution affecting the MPA have not been conducted

- For tier one sites, while managers may be aware of specific pollutants or sources of pollution affecting the marine resources under their care, there have been no targeted assessments to understand the main sources of pollution and their relative contribution.

Tier 2: Major sources of pollution have been identified but are not being addressed

- In tier two sites, assessments have been conducted which identify major sources of land and/or marine based pollution affecting MPA resources, but there has been little to no effort or investment in addressing these sources.

Tier 3: Targeted actions for pollution control are being implemented

- In the third tier, MPAs have targeted action plans for addressing major sources of pollution, such as watershed management plans or targeted outreach, and they are being implemented at some level to reduce the impacts of pollution on MPA resources.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

MPAs can be a magnet for tourism activity. Some MPAs have been established for the explicit purpose of managing tourism use or for tourism development. In MPAs where tourism activity may impact resources that have been targeted for conservation or where tourism is in conflict with other managed uses, the development of sustainable tourism plans and the promotion of sustainable tourism activities can reduce these impacts and conflicts while fostering tourism development. This assessment area may not be relevant in all MPA sites and should only be completed for sites where there is significant tourism activity.

Tier 1: Tourism activities are not managed in the MPA

- In tier one sites, ongoing tourism activities which may be impacting resources and/ or creating conflict with other legal uses are largely un-managed and unregulated.

Tier 2: A sustainable tourism assessment and/or plan has been developed but is not being implemented

- In tier two sites assessments have been conducted which identify tourism activities that are compatible with MPA goals objectives and how they could be supported or developed in the area, but proposed approaches are not being implemented.

Tier 3: Tourism activities in the MPA are managed and conducted according to a sustainable tourism plan or the MPA management plan

- In tier three sites, these assessment and plans have been conducted and the outcomes are begin implemented to foster sustainable tourism opportunities associated with the MPA.

RESPONSE TO DISTURBANCE EVENTS

Both natural and human-induced disturbance events such as hurricanes, algal blooms, sargassum events, invasive species introductions, coral disease outbreaks, fish kills, oil spills and ship groundings can cause dramatic impacts to marine ecosystems in a very short period of time. While preventing these events is most often outside of the control of MPA managers, the capacity to conduct a swift and coordinated response to such events in an effort to minimize impacts and investigate or document the event can be developed.

Tier 1: Little or no consideration of response to disturbance events in the management of the MPA

- Tier one sites have been unable to prepare for potential disturbance events in any way and do not have a planned response.

Tier 2: Response plan(s) developed for the MPA

- Tier two sites have developed response plans for one or more potential disturbance events but there is limited capacity to execute those plans because of a lack of coordination capacity or available disturbance response participants.

Tier 3: Response plan(s) being implemented with resources, technical capacity and infrastructure available to respond

- Tier three sites have developed these response plans and have either successfully implemented them or are fully prepared and equipped to implement them should the need arise such as through a coordinated network of volunteers and/or from partnering agencies and organizations.