

**THE VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE (VIP)  
MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK (MPAN)  
AND LAW ENFORCEMENT NETWORK (LEN)  
STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN**



*September 2017 Version  
(4th Iteration)*



# The Verde Island Passage Marine Protected Area Network and Law Enforcement Network Strategic Management Plan

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**September 2017**  
(4th Iteration)



Strengthening Marine Protected Areas to Conserve Marine Key Biodiversity Areas



CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL



The SMARTSeas PH is a DENR-led project that is funded by the GEF and supported by the UNDP and implemented by Conservation International Philippines in the Verde Island Passage – the center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity in the world.

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# The Verde Island Passage (VIP) Marine Protected Area Network (MPAN) and Law Enforcement Network (LEN) Strategic Management Plan

## I. Introduction

The Verde Island Passage is touted as “the center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity in the world” after the study of Carpenter and Springer (2005). A year after, Presidential Executive Order (EO) 578 was issued “*establishing the national policy on biological diversity, prescribing its implementation throughout the country, particularly in the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecosystem and the Verde Island Passage marine corridor.*” The policy environment was set to enable interest groups to engage in marine conservation initiatives especially in the prescribed areas.

Conservation International Philippines set its marine program and strategized to deliver conservation outcomes in the larger Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecosystem (SSME), also known as the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape (SSS) or Sulu-Celebes Sea Large Marine Ecoregion (SCS-LME). This was done through on-the-ground work in marine conservation corridors with the Verde Island Passage (VIP) as one of the focal areas (other marine conservation corridors included the Balabac Strait, the Cagayan Ridge which includes Tubbataha Reef Natural Park, and the Trinational Sea Turtle Marine Corridor that included Indonesia and Malaysia).

One of the directives of EO 578 was the creation of the Presidential Commission for the Integrated Conservation and Development of the Sulu and Celebes Seas (PCICDSCS). A task force was created under this body which comprised 12 national government agencies (NGAs) and the 5 provincial governments of the VIP. After a series of 7 consultation meetings between 6 December 2006 and 8 August 2007, the VIP Management Plan Framework or The Verde Framework, was developed in 2009 with significant support from CI Philippines. On-the-ground implementation of conservation activities, scientific studies, and social mobilization including collaborations with partners by CI Philippines, among others, fed into the development of The Verde Framework (first printed in 2009).

The original VIP delineation encompassed 1.14 million hectares of marine waters of Batangas, Marinduque, Romblon, Oriental Mindoro, and Occidental Mindoro. The included local government units in each province then are listed in the table below.

Table I.A. The VIP provinces and their component local government units (LGUs) listed in The Verde Framework.

Province	Component LGUs
Batangas [15]	Batangas City Municipalities of Nasugbu, Lian, Calatagan, Balayan, Calaca, Lemery, Taal, San Luis, Bauan, San Pascual, Mabini, Tingloy, Lobo, San Juan
Marinduque [4]	Municipalities of Mogpog, Boac, Gasan, Buenavista
Romblon [3]	Municipalities of Concepcion, Corcuera, Banton
Occidental Mindoro [4]	Municipalities of Abra de Ilog, Paluan, Looc, Lubang
Oriental Mindoro [7]	Calapan City Municipalities of Puerto Galera, San Teodoro, Naujan, Baco, Pola, Pinamalayan

As a critical food source that serves other environmental services to the people around the area, several issues were identified then that beleaguered the VIP, which still persists. The stakeholders identified weak institutional capacities, uncaring attitudes of the general populace, fishing related issues (most common and deeply-rooted), biodiversity concerns, pollution problems, resource use conflicts, tourism troubles, and socio-economic challenges. The well-funded marine program of CI Philippines addressed all these challenges through strategic partnerships, science research, and field demonstration.

At the end of the major CI Philippines marine conservation initiative in the VIP between 2005-2010, coverage of marine protected areas (MPAs) increased 14x from about 1,200 hectares to 16,800 hectares; 910 volunteers were deputized as *bantay dagat* (sea guardians) and equipped with enforcement gear (radio transceivers, GPS, binoculars, search lights, megaphones, and cameras), patrol boats and standard computer workstations; and socio-economic studies including several marine scientific studies were conducted (e.g., ichthyoplankton distribution study; dispersal modeling; habitat remote sensing; coral reef and reef fish surveys; surveys on large marine vertebrates; and seabird surveys). In the entire SSS, the biodiversity tallied in all sites and studies included: 580 species of reef corals (+soft corals); 739 species of reef fishes; 27 true and 40 associated mangrove species; 8 species of seagrasses; 66 species of seaweeds or marine algae; 12 species of cetaceans; 12 species of elasmobranchs; 5 species of sea turtles; and at least 99 species of seabirds.

Successes on the ground were reported by the LGUs themselves and all partners at the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Congress of 2010 (Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City; it is worth noting that the LGUs appreciated very much that they were urged to present their respective conservation activities at the event). After the congress, the ad-hoc VIP MPA Network and Law Enforcement Network was created which then included Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, and Occidental Mindoro (but only Lubang-Looc).

Other highlights of the SSS initiative in the VIP are given in the following figures below.

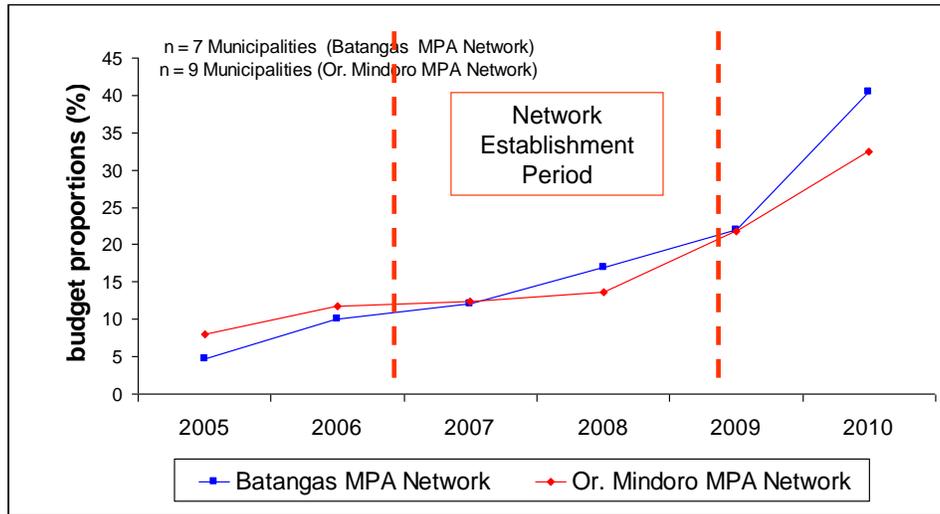


Figure I.A. Budget proportions in percentage of the funds from the Annual Investment Plans of LGUs that go to Coastal Resource Management initiatives in 16 Network-member Municipalities in the Provinces of Batangas and Oriental Mindoro. Note the marked increase in this budget allocation during FY10 when CI was actively seeking co-financing from LGUs. (CI Philippines 2010 SSS Project Terminal Report).

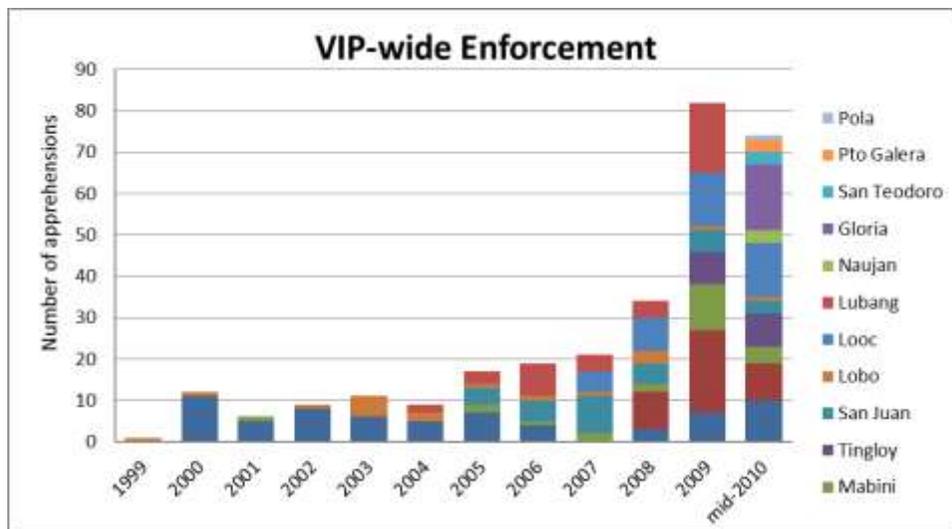


Figure I.B. Apprehension record from *Bantay Dagat* activities in member LGUs of the VIP enforcement network. Note that more and more apprehensions had taken place as more LGUs participate in marine law enforcement in the VIP. (CI Philippines 2010 SSS Project Terminal Report).

The period thereafter (2010-2015) was a hiatus in conservation in the VIP. Nonetheless, conservation initiatives continued, albeit more local, and built on the successes of the SSS initiative and partnerships.

An opportunity presented itself for the DENR to consolidate biodiversity conservation projects in the country as one biodiversity program that will be funded by the GEF through the UNDP. A consortium of NGOs and NGAs was formed to implement the project entitled, “Strengthening Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to Conserve Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (MKBAs) in the Philippines” or the SMARTSeas PH Project. The project is implemented in five sites by different entities, namely: 1) Conservation International Philippines in the Verde Island Passage; 2) National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI of DA-BFAR) in Southern Palawan; 3) Rare Philippines in Tañon Straight; 4) World Wildlife Fund for Nature in Davao Gulf; and 5) Haribon Foundation in Lanuza Bay.

There are three major outcomes of the SMARTSeas PH Project, formulated based on the gaps and weaknesses of MPA initiatives in the country. These are:

Outcome 1: Conservation effectiveness of existing and new MPAs/MPANs is enhanced through improvements in spatial coverage and representativeness (particularly coverage of under-represented KBAs), strengthening of the national system for MPA identification, designation and management under the NIPAS legislative framework, and quantifiable improvements in management of at least 10% of identified Marine KBAs nationwide, with concomitant increases in local stakeholder participation and support.

Outcome 2: Financial resources available for the management of MPAs and MPANs are sufficient to meet all critical management needs (estimated at US\$66/hectare/year for MPAs >150 hectares), and are growing in line with the expansion of the MPA system. Sources of revenue for MPA management are being progressively diversified, with the percentage of revenue being derived from Government fiscal sources declining to less than 50% by end-project.

Outcome 3: A comprehensive policy framework in place and effectively implemented for the conservation, protection and management of the country’s marine ecosystems and fishery resources, that harmonizes mandates, plans and activities amongst all key MPA stakeholders including BMB, BFAR and relevant Local Government Units.

This Strategic Management Plan aims to fully address Outcome 1 of the SMARTSeas PH Project with significant inputs to the other two. The five-year project officially commenced in the VIP in August 2015 with the following chronology of significant events:

**Table I.B. Chronology of events of the SMARTSeas PH Project from its kick-off to the ceremonial signing of the MOA of the VIP MPAN and LEN.**

	Date	Event Title	Place	Representation	Remarks
1	27-28 August 2015	SMARTSeas PH (MKBA) Project Kick-Off in the VIP	Hotel Pontefino, Batangas City	VIP provinces, DENR, BFAR, MSI, PEMSEA, RARE, ECOFISH	Presentation of the project to the VIP and other interest groups; Covered by TV Patrol Southern Tagalog, 27 August 2015
2	14 November 2015	Signing of the Pledge of Commitment to establish the VIP MPAN and LEN	Tamaraw Hall, Provincial Capitol, Calapan City	Governors of the VIP Provinces	The Pledge of Commitment Board was signed by the VIP Provinces
3	2 March 2016	MOA Signing of the Occidental Mindoro VIP MPA and Bantay Dagat Network	Capitol Convention Center, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro	Gov. Mario Gene Mendiola and LCEs of Lubang, Looc, Paluan and Abra de Ilog	MOA was signed establishing the Occidental Mindoro MPA and LEN

4	10-11 August 2016	Collaborative Planning Workshop on the VIP MPA and Law Enforcement Network	One Tagaytay Place, Tagaytay City	VIP Provincial Governments; BFAR; DENR; PNP; PNP-MARITIME; PCG; PEMSEA	Review of the Verde Framework Plan; Draft MOA; Proposed VIP MPA Management Board; Proposed Secretariat; Draft TOR of Secretariat; Draft VIP MPA&LEN Strategic Management Plan; VIP TWG
5	28 September 2016	MOA Signing of the Marinduque VIP MPA and Law Enforcement Network	Capitol Conference Hall, Boac, Marinduque	Gov. Reyes; Mogpog; Boac; Gasan; Buenavista; BFAR; DENR; PNP; PNP-MARIG; PCG; PA; MSC	MOA was signed establishing the Marinduque VIP MPA and Law Enforcement Network
6	2 December 2016	MOA Signing of the Maghali MPA and CMLE Network	Harbor Chateau, Odiongan, Romblon	Governor Eduardo Firmalo; Tres Islas Mayors; Odiongan Mayor Trina Firmalo; Romblon PNP, PNP-Maritime, & PCG; BFAR-PFO	MOA was signed establishing the Maghali MPA and CMLE Network
7	29 March 2017	MOA Signing of the VIP MPAN and LEN	Hotel Pontefino, Batangas City	VIP Provinces, DENR, BFAR, PNP, PCG, UNDP, PEMSEA, 1st Gen, Malampaya Foundation, UP-MSI	Ceremonial signing of the VIP MPAN and LEN MOA by the respective parties and gathered commitments from all concerned. Media coverage: TV Patrol Southern Tagalog headlines on same date; Live interview with Batangas Brigada News FM 104.7 on 31 Mar 2017 [0830-0900H program]
8	21-23 May 2017	VIP MPAN & LEN Network Meeting	Hotel Pontefino, Batangas City	VIP Provinces, DENR, BFAR, PNP, PCG, UNDP, PEMSEA, 1st Gen, Malampaya Foundation, UP-MSI	3rd Iteration of the VIP Strategic Management Plan; Review of the Verde Framework Plan; VIP Interim Secretariat constituted.
9	15-16 August 2017	First VIP Interim Secretariat Meeting	Filipiniana Hotel, Calapan City	VIP Provinces, DENR, BFAR, PNP-MARITIME, PCG, DOT, MFI as invited by OrMin,	4th Iteration of the VIP Strategic Management Plan; Batangas and BFAR-MIMAROPA elected as co-chairs of the VIP Interim Secretariat with CI as Secretary; reporting system was set-up
10	23-25 October 2017	Second VIP Interim Secretariat Meeting	Oceana Resort, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	Members of the VIP Interim Secretariat	Batangas as co-chair to the VIP Interim Secretariat to organize the meeting and invite the members with CI assistance; Batangas and BFAR-MIMAROPA will co-chair the meeting for the first time.

## II. Vision and Mission Statements

The vision-mission statements of the VIP MPAN and LEN were derived and modified from The Verde Framework.

VISION	MISSION
<p><i>Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor, the center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity and a globally renowned heritage site, is managed and enjoyed by empowered, responsible, and resilient communities working together for inclusive growth, sustainably conserving and protecting the environment and natural resources.</i></p>	<p><i>To mobilize partnerships and strengthen capability among resource users and managers for sustained biodiversity conservation and inclusive socio-economic development.</i></p>

## III. The VIP Logos

### One VIP logo

Letters: VIP is depicted with the letter “I” carved like the number “1” to denote unity, as One VIP.

Colors: there are 2 main colors, blue and green. 2/3 of VIP is blue which denotes the oceans and 1/3 green which denotes the terrestrial area. The lush colors signify healthy land and ocean environments.

Icon: the blue seastar is *Linckia laevigata*, quite common in the VIP and known to be a very resilient species, a character we associate with the communities and ecosystems of the VIP. (A word play on the genus name *Linckia* is to “link ya” all, referring to the stakeholder spectrum). The five arms denote the provinces of Batangas, Marinduque, Romblon, Oriental Mindoro, and Occidental Mindoro

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Horizontal and vertical stacks.

## VIP Citizen Ako logo

The letters, colors, icon, and symbolism basically follow the One VIP logo.

Each individual matter! One VIP encourages every citizen of, or from, VIP to act responsibly and care for the area they should be proud of – the center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity of the world!!! The everyday life of each VIP citizen (at home, and going to work or school, and coming back) should be lived in an environment-caring manner. The ideal is, *VIP Citizen Ako, sa Puso at Isip, sa Salita at sa Gawa.*

Post pictures of your VIP highlights and concerns at <http://instagram.com/vipcitizenako>



Horizontal and vertical stacks.

## IV. The Management Body

The Management Board for the VIP outlined in The Verde Framework (2010) included the DENR Secretary as the Chair, Provincial Governors as the Co-Chairs, 13 member NGAs, and representatives from the corporate sector and civil society. There are ten (10) committees under this structure and led by different NGAs.

*An alternative structure “is for the VIPMC Management Board to include only the governors of the five provinces, representatives from the civil society and the corporate sector. The commitment of the NGAs to the VIPMC is based on national laws and policies without necessarily involving them directly through membership in the management board.” – Page 55, The Verde Framework, 2010.*

Further, The Verde Framework stated that *“the structure and composition of the management body mentioned in this framework is only a proposal. It may be adopted, modified or revised in the formulation of the provincial management plan.”*

The present VIP Management Board is a fusion of the forms identified in The Verde Framework, as discussed in iterative meetings of the stakeholders, and entered part of the provisions in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to Establish the VIP MPAN and LEN. The VIP Management Board is comprised of the heads of the agencies/institutions party to the MOA, namely: Provincial Governments of Batangas, Marinduque, Romblon, Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro; the DENR Secretary; the DA-BFAR Director; the PNP Chief; and the PCG Commandant. The Secretariat will be established by the VIP Management Board but in interim, the VIP technical working group that deliberated the proceedings to develop the MOA and the draft VIP strategic management plan, created the VIP Interim Secretariat.

**Table I.C. Members of the VIP Interim Secretariat with the Batangas Province as Chair and BFAR MIMAROA as Co-Chair and CI Philippines as the Secretary.**

<b>The VIP MPAN and LEN Interim Secretariat</b>			
	<b>Agency/Institution</b>	<b>Voting Member?</b>	<b>Position</b>
1	Batangas Provincial Government	Yes	Chair
2	Marinduque Provincial Government	Yes	
3	Romblon Provincial Government	Yes	
4	Oriental Mindoro Provincial Government	Yes	
5	Occidental Mindoro Provincial Government	Yes	
6	Philippine Coastguard Southern Tagalog	Yes	
7	BFAR CALABARZON	Yes	
8	BFAR MIMAROPA	Yes	Co-Chair
9	PNP-Maritime CALABARZON	Yes	
10	PNP-Maritime MIMAROPA	Yes	
11	DENR-BMB	Yes	
12	DENR-CMD	Yes	
13	DENR CALABARZON	Yes	
14	DENR MIMAROPA	Yes	
15	DOT CALABARZON	No	
16	DOT MIMAROPA	No	
17	Conservation International	No	Secretary

## V. Functions of the Management Body

As provided for in the MOA of the VIP MPAN and LEN, the respective Provincial Government Units shall:

1. Devise a co-financing system wherein concerned stakeholders, LGUs, civil society, and private business may be able to contribute their own respective resources in the pursuance of the Network's plans, programs, and activities;
2. Sustain their support to their constituent LGUs and other concerned entities in facilitating the activities of the VIP MPAN and LEN;
3. Actively work, collaborate, and cooperate with the Parties herein on its plans, activities, and other information relevant to the VIP MPAN and LEN;
4. Regularly enhance the capacity of their respective Provincial MPAN and LEN to effectively contribute to, and strengthen the, VIP MPAN and LEN; and
5. Observe the guidelines for the biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of the VIP Marine Corridor as set forth in The Verde Framework, national laws and regulations, international treaties and conventions, and international development goals (e.g., Sustainable Development Goals).

The DENR, through its regional offices, shall:

1. Provide technical support and livelihood assistance to the Provincial Governments for the protection, preservation/conservation, rehabilitation, management and sustainable development of coastal and marine resources; and
2. Assist the Provincial Governments in adopting an Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) approach as a strategy to ensure the sustainable development of the VIP's natural resources.

The DA-BFAR, through its regional offices, shall:

1. Assist the respective Provincial Governments in the development, conservation, protection, utilization and management of the fisheries and aquatic resources; and
2. Provide technical support and livelihood assistance to the Provinces in the development, management, regulation, conservation, protection and utilization of the fisheries and aquatic resources.

The Law Enforcement Units shall:

1. Perform its respective mandated functions to best serve the VIP MPAN through coordination and cooperation with each other in terms of sharing of information necessary for the performance of their duties, resolution of conflicts between MPAs and other users of the coastal marine areas, and standardization of protocols (note: enforcement agencies form composite teams with the Bantay Dagat groups at the municipal level in patrolling operations);
2. Actively participate in and/or lead protection, preservation/conservation, rehabilitation, and management of coastal and marine resources; and
3. Include in their respective communication strategies their significant roles in the protection, conservation, and management of the VIP – the center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity in the world.

## VI. Geographic Scope of the VIP MPAN and LEN

The VIP MPAN and LEN now respects the territorial jurisdictions of the inclusive LGUs in each of the five provinces. This now includes the entire territorial jurisdictions of municipalities and cities, which include the terrestrial and marine domains. This allows for a more integrated approach to conservation and management in the Verde Island Passage.

**Table VI.A. The expanded VIP MPAN and LEN domain. Into other LGUs as well, that now includes both terrestrial and marine territorial jurisdictions of the included LGUs with a combined area of about 2 million hectares.**

Province	Terrestrial and Marine Domains of Component LGUs
Batangas [15]	Batangas City Municipalities of Nasugbu, Lian, Calatagan, Balayan, Calaca, Lemery, Taal, San Luis, Bauan, San Pascual, Mabini, Tingloy, Lobo, San Juan
Marinduque [6]	Municipalities of Mogpog, Boac, Gasan, Buenavista, Torrijos, Sta. Cruz
Romblon [3]	Municipalities of Concepcion, Corcuera, Banton
Occidental Mindoro [4]	Municipalities of Abra de Ilog, Paluan, Looc, Lubang
Oriental Mindoro [9]	Calapan City Municipalities of Puerto Galera, San Teodoro, Naujan, Baco, Pola, Pinamalayan, Gloria, Bansud

The terrestrial and marine domain of the VIP MPAN and LEN has a total of about two (2) million hectares, partitioned as 1.35 million hectares of marine areas (previously 1.14) and 0.65 million hectares of terrestrial areas of the component 37 LGUs.

## VII. Designing the MPA Network

Several scientific studies have already been conducted in the VIP to allow for informed decisions in MPA and MPAN work. Among which is the particle dispersal modeling that is augmented by habitat surveys (both remote sensing and actual bio-physical surveys), and resource use perception mapping. Given these parameters, the connectivity matrix for the VIP was generated for the first time and allowed objective determination of potential sources and sinks of planktonic eggs and larvae to design the MPAN. The following are the results and initial recommendation from the study:

Shown in the Figure VII.A below is the first dispersal model but with Romblon and Marinduque not included in the domain. Although scenarios were generated for different seasons, only the northeast monsoon (Jan 2008-2009) is shown here since the other seasons did not produce strong connectivities or seeding (see red dots in Figure VII.B) nor patterns not already identified in the NE monsoon scenario.

Strong self-seeding areas and the areas they mainly seed are given in Table VII.A. It is also important to note that areas outside the VIP, i.e., Quezon province, strongly input to areas inside the VIP like Oriental and Occidental Mindoro including Lobo and Batangas Bay.

The second simulation output (see Figure VII.C) covered a wider geographic space and showed that Marinduque is connected to Mabini-Tingloy of Batangas. This, however, was a weak connection.

Romblon, on the other hand, was totally ignored because the Tres Islas are small and were treated as part of the water by the model because of the coarse resolution of the hydrodynamic field. No connectivity was therefore produced for Romblon.

Given the two simulations, Table VII.B lists the municipalities and MPAs that should form the MPA network of VIP based on strong ecological connectedness. Because of the coarse hydrodynamic resolution that was used in the second simulation, and that the first simulation did not include the whole of the VIP, Romblon and Marinduque were included in this initial design for the VIP MPA network. Overall, there are at least 50 MPAs included.

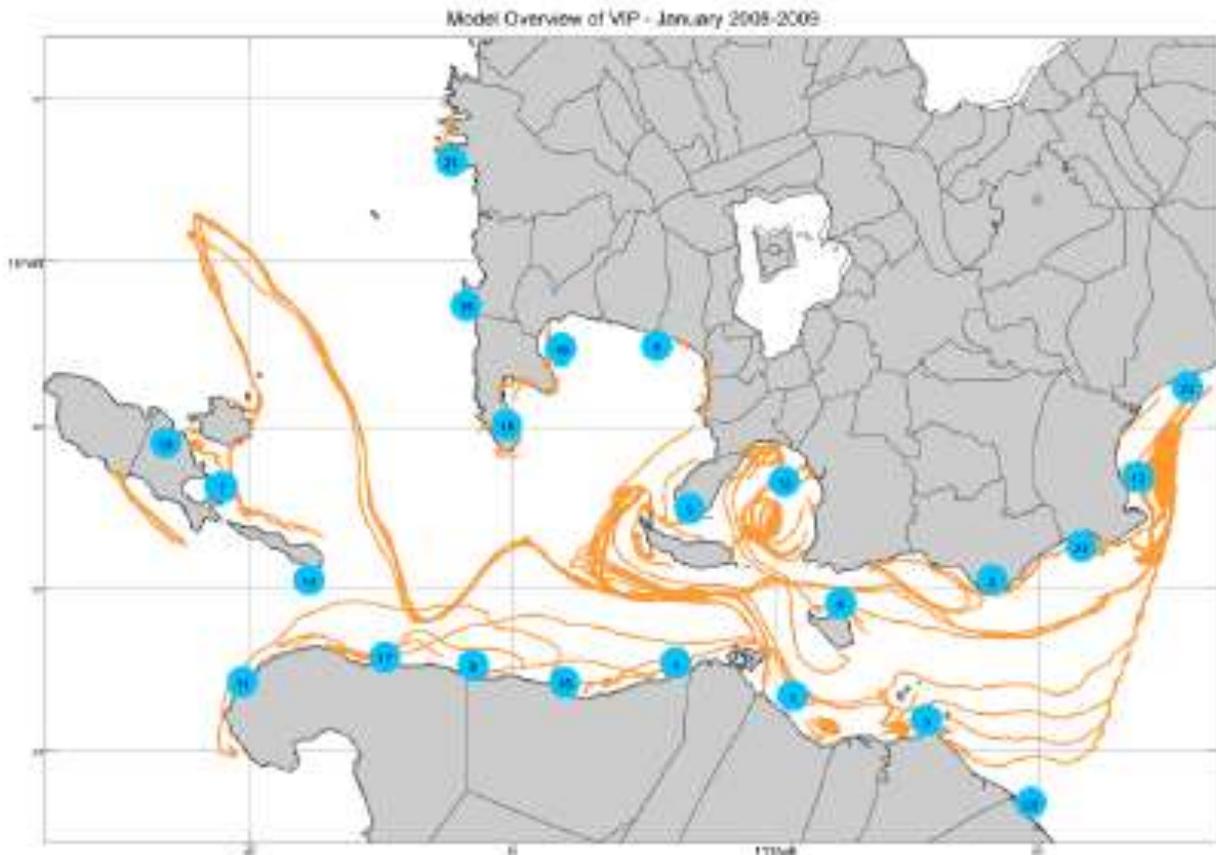


Figure VII.A. Dispersal model for January (northeast monsoon) 2008-2009 generated for VIP (courtesy of MSI).

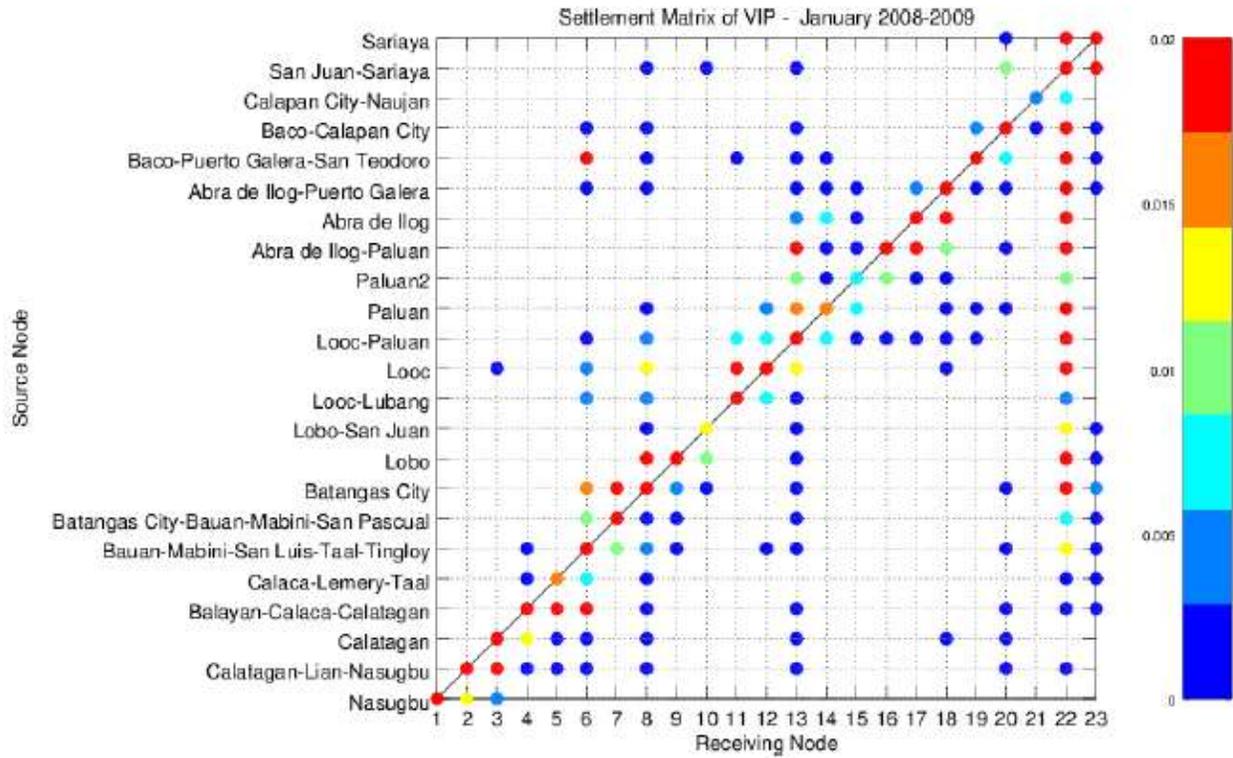


Figure VII.B. The connectivity matrix for VIP for January (NE monsoon) 2008-2009 showing strong connectedness in red dots. Red dots along the diagonal are strong self-seeding areas. Note that areas outside the VIP also have strong inputs to many areas inside the VIP, especially in the Mindoro provinces (output courtesy of MSI).

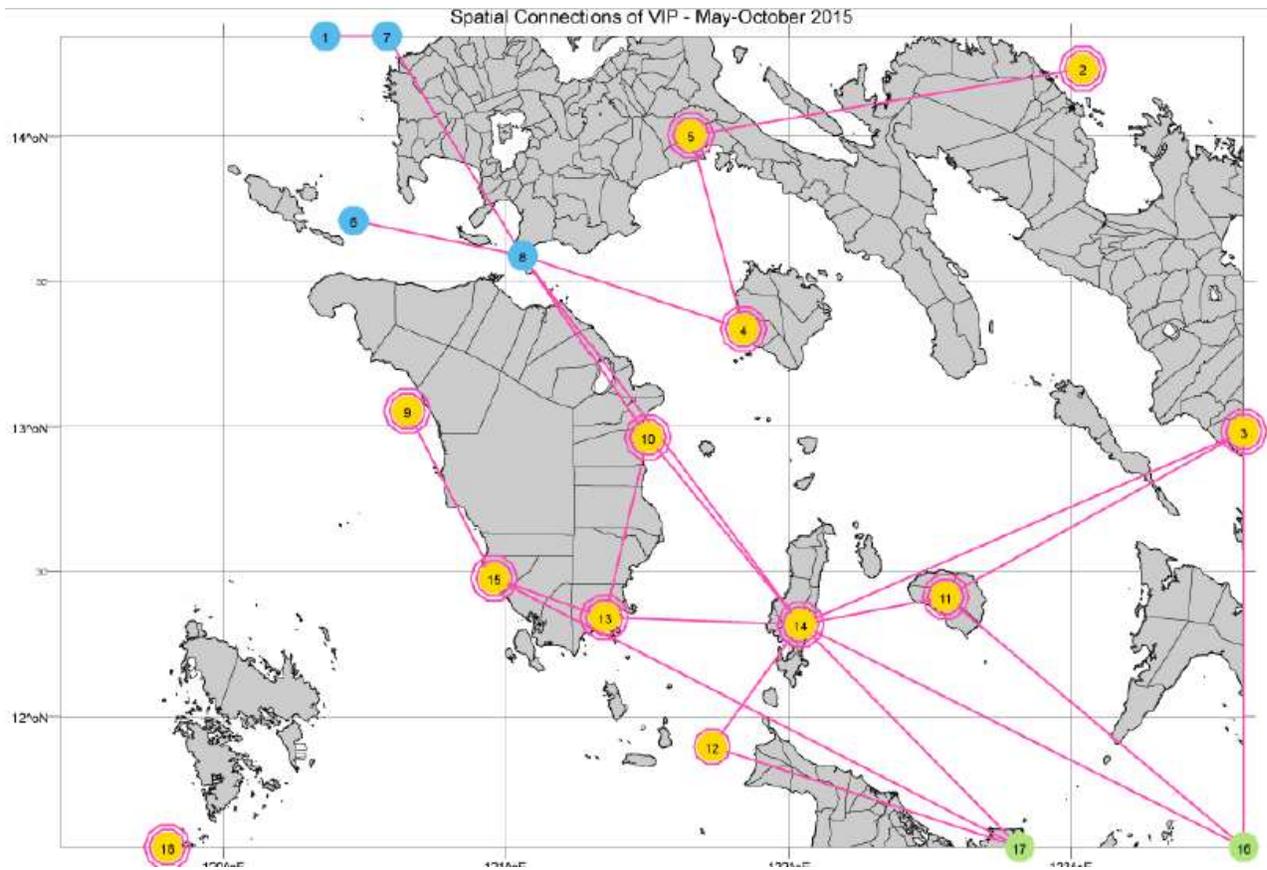


Figure VII.C. Connectedness of areas from the second simulation output showing farther areas having influence in the VIP. Marinduque is shown to be linked with Mabini-Tingloy. Romblon, however, was not captured in the simulation because of the coarse hydrodynamic field that was used (output courtesy of MSI).

**Table VII.A. Connectivity of municipalities based on Figure 2 with strong connectedness. Self-seeding areas and the main areas they seed are given.**

Province	Self-seeding areas	Seeded from the previous column
Batangas	Nasugbu	
	Lian	
	Calatagan →	Lian
	Balayan	
	Mabini-Tingloy →	Balayan
	Batangas Bay	
	Verde Island	
	Lobo	
Occidental Mindoro	Lubang	
	Looc to Golo Is	
	Paluan (VIP)	
	Abra de Ilog →	Paluan (VIP)
Oriental Mindoro	Puerto Galera →	Abra de Ilog
	Calapan City	

**Table VII.B. Initial list of areas and MPAs that need to be included in the VIP MPA Network based on high incidence of seeding (whether self or elsewhere). Romblon and Marinduque are included based on a precautionary approach. There are at least 50 MPAs listed in this table that can be included in the VIP MPA Network.**

Province	LGU	Barangay	Name of MPA	Self-seeding or Recipient	Hectares	# MPAs
Batangas	Balayan	Carerahan	Carerahan Fish Sanctuary and Reserve	SS & R	37.00	1
	Batangas City	San Agustin Kanluran	Nalayag Point Fish Refuge and Sanctuary	SS	16.26	1
		San Agapito	Pulong Bato Fishery Refuge and Sanctuary	SS	14.13	1
		Pagkilatan	Pagkilatan Fishery Reserve	SS	1.79	1
	Calatagan			SS	TBD	TBD
	Lian			SS & R	TBD	TBD
	Lobo	Sawang and Olo-Olo	Sawang/Olo-Olo Fish Sanctuary	SS	16.74	1
		Malabrigo	Malabrigo Fishery Refuge and Sanctuary	SS	25.00	1
		Biga	Biga Fishery Sanctuary	SS	20.65	1
		Sawang, Olo-Olo, Lagadlarin and Fabrica	Lobo Mangrove Forest Reserve	SS	69.79	1
Mabini	Bagalangit	Twin Rocks Marine Sanctuary	SS	22.92	1	
	Ligaya	Cathedral Rock Marine Sanctuary	SS	15.40	1	
	Bagalangit	Arthur's Rock Marine Sanctuary	SS	17.98	1	
	San Teodoro	Barangay Ligaya Marine Protected Area	SS	43.01	1	
Nasugbu	Papaya and Balaytigue	Taytayen/Etayo Marine Reserve	SS	40.49	1	
		Cutad Marine Reserve	SS	52.62	1	
	Balaytigue	Pinagdakutan/Santelmo Marine Sanctuary	SS	13.93	1	
	Papaya	Punta Fuego Sanctuary	SS	6.45	1	
Oriental Mindoro	Calapan City	Lazareto	Harka Piloto Fringing Reef MPA	SS	37.00	1
		Silonay	Silonay Mangrove Conservation Area	SS	41.00	1

	Puerto Galera	San Antonio, Sto. Nino, Poblacion, Palangan and Sabang	Puerto Galera MPA	SS	4,828.00	1	
	San Teodoro	Ilag	Punta Ilag Fish Sanctuary	SS	23.10	1	
		Tamauyan	Tamauyan Fish Sanctuary	SS	89.37	1	
Occidental Mindoro	Lubang-Looc		Lubang-Looc <b>System of 12 MPAs</b>	SS	14,484.00	12	
	Abra de Ilog	Apyas	Abra de Ilog Fish Sanctuary	SS & R	105.31	1	
	Paluan	Tubili	Paluan-Mahabang Buhangin MPA	SS & R	80.00	1	
Marinduque	Boac	Caganhao	Boac Community Marine Reserve	TBD	25.00	1	
	Buenavista	Yook	Integrated Community MPA	TBD	141.74	1	
	Gasan	Pinggán	Gasan Community Marine Reserve	TBD	1,821.45	1	
		Bahi and Masiga	Marine Turtle Preservation Area ( <b>Beach Area</b> )	TBD	TBD	1	
	Mogpog	Silangan	Mogpog Community Marine Reserve	TBD	177.45	1	
	Sta. Cruz	Kalangkang & Kasily	Sta. Cruz Community Marine Reserve	TBD	194.00	1	
Botilao		Banot Island Reef Fish Sanctuary	TBD	12.00	1		
Torrijos	Kay Duke	Torrijos Community Marine Reserve	TBD	6415	1		
Romblon	Banton	Yabawon	Yabawon Fish Sanctuary	TBD	5.00	1	
	Concepcion	Masadya	Masadya Fish Sanctuary	TBD	16.00	1	
			Poblacion	Poblacion Cove MPA	TBD	70.00	1
				Poblacion Mangrove Protected Area	TBD	TBD	1
				Tabon Bird and Marine Turtle Nesting Site ( <b>Beach Area</b> )	TBD	TBD	1
	Corcuera	Ilijan	Ilijan Marine Sanctuary	TBD	8.00	1	
		Tacasan	Tacasan Fish Sanctuary	TBD	10.00	1	
				<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>22,582.57</b>	<b>50</b>	

## VIII. METT Scores of the VIP MPAN and LEN

**Table VIII.A. Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) results for the VIP MPAN and LEN. The 2013 scores were based on the assessment during the project inception for the ad-hoc network formed by Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, and Occidental Mindoro (only Looc and Lubang municipalities).**

Category	Year 2013	(Possible Score) Description [METT Items]	Year 2016
Management Effectiveness	Score		Score
	33	(102) TOTAL	43
	13	(30) Management Plan [4,5,7,18,19,21,22,28]	15
		(15) Management Body with community participation [13,14,23,24]	
	2		3
	3	(9) Legal Instrument [1,2,6]	4
	0	(12) Financing - Budget [15,16,17,29]	5
	2	(3) IEC [20]	1
	4	(6) Enforcement [3,10]	3
	7	(24) Monitoring and Evaluation [8,9,11,12,25,26,30]	10
2	(3) Site Development [27]	2	
Capacity Assessment	Score		Score
	19	(45) TOTAL	26
	4	(9) Capacities for Engagement	5
	8	(15) Capacities to Generate, Access and Use Information and Knowledge	8
		(9) Capacities for Strategy, Policy and Legislation development	
	3		6
	4	(6) Capacities for Management and Implementation	5
0	(6) Capacities to Monitor and Evaluate	2	

## IX. Thematic Areas, Objectives, and Indicators of the VIP MPAN and LEN Strategic Management Plan

The plans and programs of each of the five (5) provinces including the DENR, BFAR, PNP (Maritime), and the PCG were consolidated into a matrix that delivers into the 8 major thematic areas of the VIP MPAN and LEN Strategic Management Plan.

All entities will report on their Activities that fulfill the indicators in the plan especially as budgeted in their respective plans, projects, and programs. See Annex I for the detailed 2017 workplan of the VIP MPAN and LEN Strategic Management Plan.

**Table IX.A. Thematic areas, objectives, and indicators for the VIP MPAN and LEN Strategic Management Plan as formulated by the VIP constituents in iterative consultations and deliberations.**

Thematic Area	Objectives	Indicators
1. Sustainable Productions (fisheries and aquaculture)	1.1: Increase fish stocks of pelagic in the VIP	- Implemented policies and ordinances that contribute to increased fish stocks - Preparation of tuna management plan
	1.2: Increase stocks of reef fish in the VIP	- Density and biomass of target reef fish species - Emergence of depleted species (e.g., groupers, jacks/trevallies)
	1.3: Address IUUF in the VIP	- Boat registrations and fishing licenses for all fishing operators - Number of apprehensions of IUUF made. - Vessel monitoring installed - [Vessel automatic identification system (under national coast watch and marina)]
	1.4: Increase production of environment-friendly aquaculture	- kg/ha/cropping - Area of production for environment-friendly aquaculture and aquasilviculture
2. Biodiversity Conservation	2.1: Increase coverage of MPAs to include ecosystems like coral reefs, sea grasses, mangroves, and beach forests, among others	- Percentage of municipal waters and/or coastal zones declared as MPAs
	2.2: Establish Marine Protected Area Networks using ecological and biological information, connectivity, and ecosystem representativeness and replication	- All provinces in the VIP have MPA Networks.
	2.3: Develop a marine zoning scheme that identifies zones for biodiversity conservation, fisheries management, ecotourism, and aquaculture, among others	- Marine spatial plan
	2.4: Elevate the status of the VIP as a World Heritage Site	- Declaration of the VIP as a WHS
	2.5: Identify the different ecosystems (from terrestrial to marine) and determine their spatial/areal extent and condition	- Remotely sensed data acquired and analysed - Ground-truthing activities conducted

	2.6 Basic biological and ecological studies have been conducted for the different species and ecosystems in the VIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biophysical surveys; Climate change studies; Fisheries studies; Ecological studies; Species' studies; Modeling studies</li> <li>- Forged partnerships (MOA/MOU) b/w provincial MPANs and their local academe for mutual cooperation and collaboration in fisheries and biodiversity/ecological research and management</li> </ul>
3. Pollution	3.1: Implementation and strict enforcement of policies that ban or regulate the use of plastics in the VIP	- Ordinances that ban/regulate the use of plastics
	3.2: Strictly enforce the prohibition of solid wastes dumped in the VIP	- Studies to detect and determine wastes dumped into the sea especially by ships/vessels
	3.3: Significant protection and/or rehabilitation of watersheds in the VIP are in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identification of watershed areas to be protected and managed</li> <li>- # of watershed management plans</li> </ul>
4. Governance, Policy, and Marine Law Enforcement	4.1: Establish coordinating mechanisms of law enforcement agencies through the law enforcement spectrum (Detection, Investigation, Initial Response, Prosecution, Conviction, Penalty, and Case Evaluation) in the VIP	- Mechanism for coordination formally established and implemented by the law enforcement agencies
	4.2: Establish VIP Secretariat as the central coordinating body for all fisheries and natural resource research and management in the VIP	- Policy issuance declaring the VIP Secretariat as the central coordinating body for all fisheries and natural resource research and management in the VIP
	4.3: Restrict and regulate access of commercial fishing boats in municipal waters of the VIP	- Mechanism for sealane routes (esp. for commercial fishing boats) formally established and implemented in the VIP
	4.4: Use low-cost and new technology to aid in effective marine law enforcement and conservation	- Identification of new local technologies and its/their application to marine law enforcement and conservation
	4.5: Established MPA Management Bodies and Bantay Dagat groups are institutionalized and sustained	- Ordinances and policies passed to ensure that membership into Management bodies and Bantay Dagat groups are insulated from political changes
	4.6: Policy advocacy to institutionalize inclusion of VIP work by gov't employees in the appraisal system for merit incentives	- # of policy briefs drafted
5. Socio-economics and Sustainable Financing	5.1: Ensure that the budgetary requirements of biodiversity conservation and fisheries management is sustainable	- Budgetary allocation of the PLGU and MLGU for biodiversity conservation and fisheries management
	5.2: Biodiversity-friendly enterprises (BFE) benefit the managers of MPAs and Bantay Dagat groups	- BFE identified and suitable to local areas

	5.3: Diversified employment or self-employment is available for the citizens of the VIP as an alternative livelihood from fishing	- Income from sources other than fishing
6. Communications Strategy	6.1: To increase awareness, understanding, and participation of VIP-CITIZENS on biodiversity benefits, threats, and its sustainable management	- No. of IEC materials and campaigns - No. of people (VIP-CITIZENS) participating in special events - No. of policies issued - No. of meetings - Social media trending results
	6.2: To involve high level policy makers and big industries in the conservation of the VIP	- Communications materials designed for policy makers and industry players
7. Climate Resilience	7.1: Reduce use of motorize boat (fuel) and increase use of sailboat	- # people skilled in sailing - # people using sail boats - decrease in fuel dependence and consumption
	7.2: Climate change adaptation	- Innovative engineering design for MPA structures - improved fisheries management and biodiversity conservation for ecosystem adaptation
8. Ecotourism	8.1: To promote ecotourism in coral reef and mangrove MPAs	- Percentage of MPA managers or community members involved in MPA ecotourism - # ecotourism sites developed and improved

## X. Monitoring and Evaluation

For ease in tracking the progress of the activities, monitoring and evaluation follows but extends the matrix of the plan. Six columns are added for reporting to track the activities, which include the following:

- Updates as of [date]
- Related activities undertaken (that are not included in the plan)
- Means of verification (documents)
- Good practices (how it helped the accomplished activities)
- Issues and concerns (why activity was not accomplished)
- For activities not accomplished, what is the next course of action?

The frequency of reporting is trimestral, i.e., thrice a year or about every four (4) months.

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