

# An Opportunity to Develop a Regionally Coordinated MPA Network for the Yellow Sea Ecoregion - A Call to Action

## Integrating a Representative and Effective Network of MPAs into a Regional Strategic Action Programme of UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project

In order to fulfill global responsibilities on MPAs in accordance with WSSD and CBD among other international goals and conventions, the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project offers an excellent opportunity.

This project also offers the State Oceanic Administration of China (SOA), the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of South Korea (MOMAF), and other relevant ministries that manage protected areas in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion a regionally coordinated strategic goals and a representative and effectively managed network on MPAs.

This will allow SOA and MOMAF to play leading roles in developing and implementing national policies and action plans on MPAs that will help achieve common strategic goals. Other ministries that manage protected areas in coastal and marine areas in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion also have important roles to play in order to achieve MPA goals.



## Establishing a Representative and Effective Network of MPAs in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion

In order to successfully establish a representative and effective network of MPAs, the following strategic action programme must take place:

### ACTION 1) EVALUATE MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING MPAs

In order to improve management effectiveness of MPAs, evaluating the current effectiveness of MPAs is essential.

A number of international guidelines and tools have been developed to measure effectiveness of MPAs.

### ACTION 2) DESIGN AND DEVELOP A NETWORK OF REPRESENTATIVE MPAs

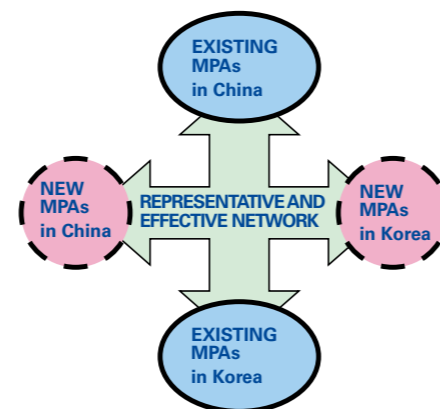
All biogeographic regions should be represented. Within each region, all major habitats should be represented. Conservative and widely accepted definitions should be used when identifying regions and habitats. (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2004)).

### ACTION 3) DESIGNATE NEW MPAs

Designating new MPAs in Ecologically Important Areas (EIAs) and Potential Priority Areas (PPAs) will help fill the gaps in the MPA network.

### ACTION 4) DESIGNATE TRANSBOUNDARY SCALE MPAs

Because the Yellow Sea Ecoregion encompasses a number of coastal states, designation of MPAs should be done at a transboundary scale.



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### Tools to evaluate management effectiveness of MPAs

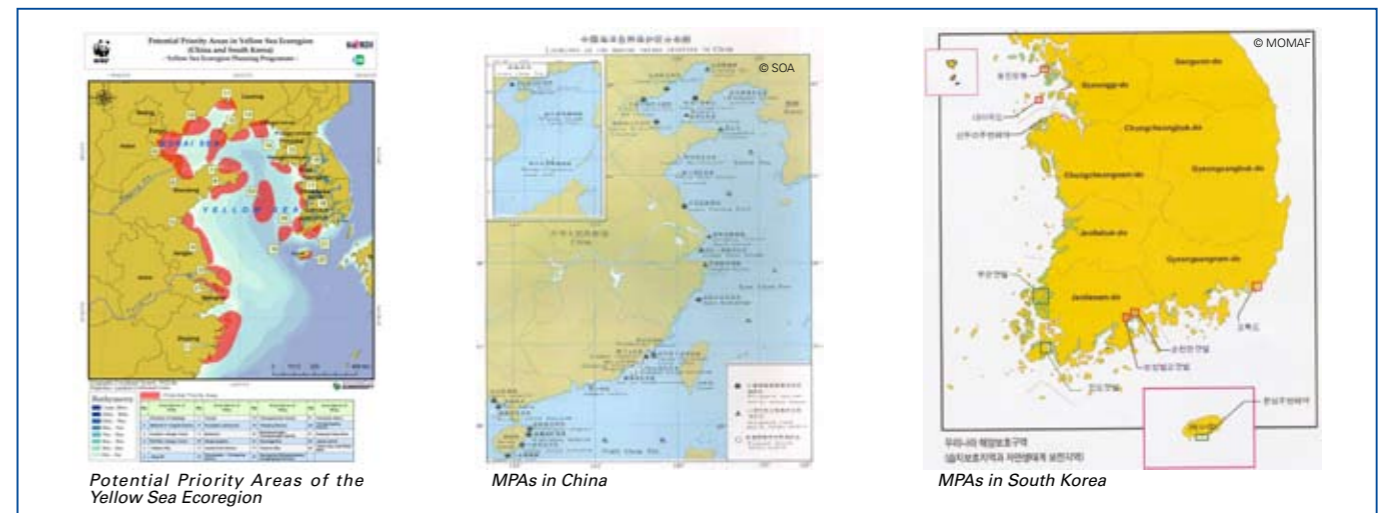


World Bank (2004) Score Card to Assess Progress in Achieving Management Effectiveness Goals (left)

Pomeroy, R.S., Parks, J.E. and Watson, L.M. (2004). How is your MPA doing? A Guidebook of Natural and Social Indicators for Evaluating Marine Protected Areas Management Effectiveness. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. (right)

# Marine Protected Areas and the Yellow Sea Ecoregion

## - A strategy for Biodiversity Conservation



## Marine Protected Areas

### WHAT IS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA?

A Marine Protected Area (MPA) is "any area of the intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying water and associated flora, fauna, historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or all of the enclosed environment (IUCN, 1999)."

MPAs may include no-take zones (areas where fisheries are banned) aquatic resources protection areas, marine parks, and nature reserves in coastal and marine areas.

### BENEFITS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

MPAs have a number of recognised benefits for conservation and the management of marine biodiversity (See box).

### EXAMPLES OF BENEFITS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

BENEFIT 1: protecting ecosystem structure, functioning and beauty, allowing recovery from past damage, and serving as stepping stones for migratory/dispersive species;

BENEFIT 2: protecting the genetic variability of exploited species;

BENEFIT 3: providing other direct and indirect social and economic benefits, such as attractions for tourists, by providing benefits to traditional users of biodiversity, or preserving reefs or kelp beds which prevent wave erosion of the shore or shelter moorings.

### BENEFITS TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

BENEFIT 1: producing fish of exploitable size, which then directly disperse "spill over" into the surrounding area where they become available to fishers;

BENEFIT 2: protecting key habitats or life-stages from fishery related damage (e.g. protecting critical spawning and nursery habitats, vulnerable juveniles, and spawning adults); producing more offspring (from a greater density of breeding adults within MCPAs) which are then dispersed by currents to eventually recruit into surrounding fisheries

(Source: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2004). TECHNICAL ADVICE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS, SCBD, 40 pages (CBD Technical Series no. 13).

## Marine Protected Areas

### - A Global Responsibility

MPAs have gained recognition as an effective tool for conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in a number of international conventions and action plans.



### The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) set a global MPA target for 2012

In order to achieve sustainable fisheries, the WSSD Plan of Implementation calls for the establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012.



### The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted MPAs as one of five key tools

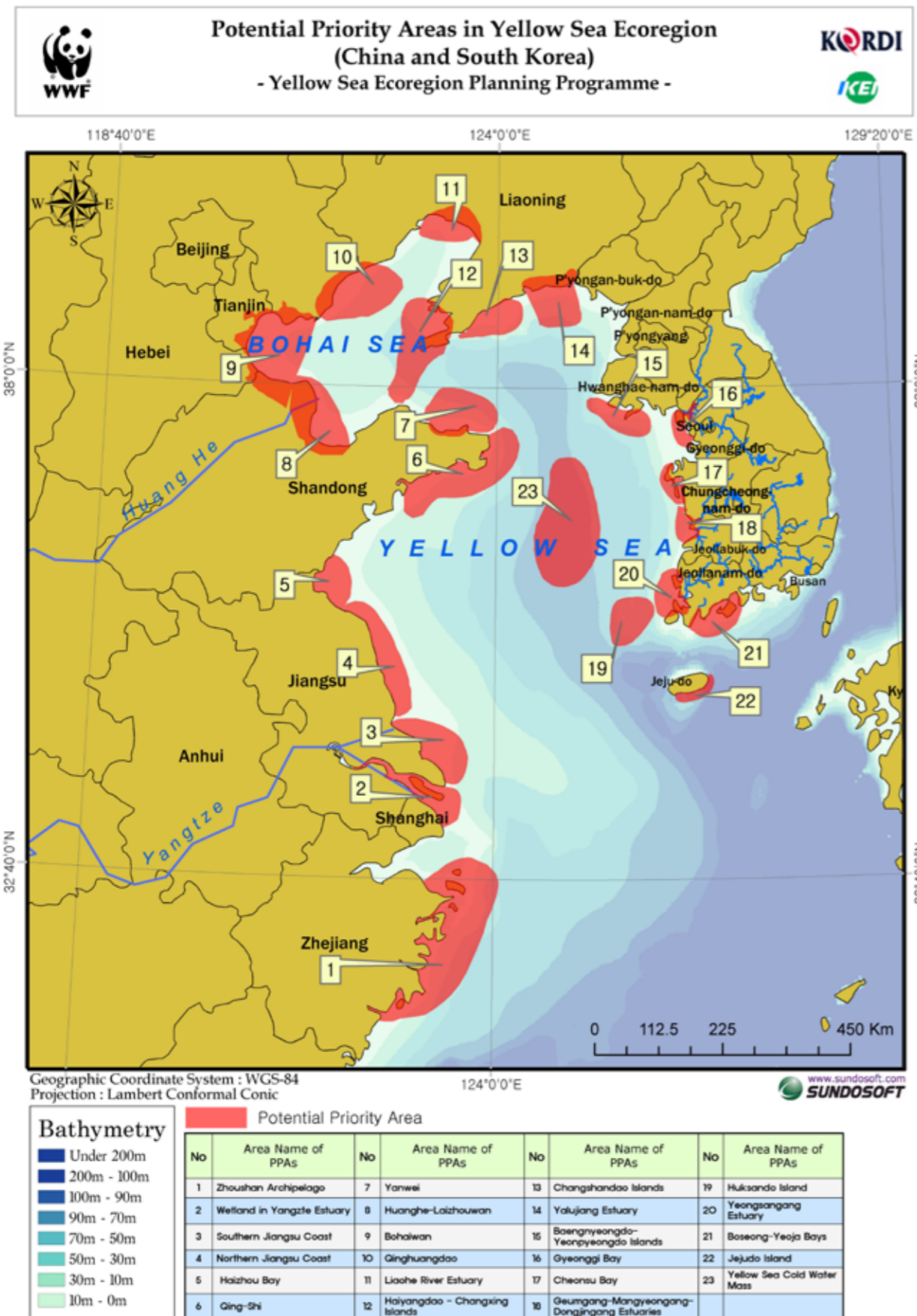
The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) as one of five key elements in its 1998 programme alongside four other important marine issues (Integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM), Marine and coastal living resources (MCLR), Mariculture, Alien species and genotypes).



### The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands calls on establishing MPAs for fish

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands adopted a resolution on MPAs (Resolution IX.4) in 2005. The resolution asks governments to establish coastal and marine protected areas as a tool for biodiversity conservation and fisheries resources management. It also call for additional Ramsar sites to be designated, especially by those contracting parties that have not yet designated Ramsar sites under criteria on fish.

# Potential Priority Areas in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion



# Current Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion (China and South Korea)



Locations of the marine protected areas in South Korea