

Summary Report

APBON Web Seminar Kick-off Meeting

1. Date: 29th of June, 2020
15:00-17:00 in Japanese Standard Time (UTC 06:00-08:00am)
(13:00-15:00 in Thailand, Indonesia, 14:00-16:00 in Philippines, China)
2. Location, Participants
 - Webex Meeting Room
 - 27 participants (24 participants and 3 from Secretariat) and 11 Nationalities
3. Programs
15:00 Opening: Secretariat of APBON (Mr. Saito: Biodiversity Center of Japan)
 - The agenda and rules of the meeting were proposed.
 - Rules of this meeting
 - Mute a microphone/turn off a camera unless you are not speaking
 - The presentation materials will be uploaded on APBON website
 - If you have question or comments, use a chat room first for asking a floor
15:05-15:10 Introduction: Dr. Testsukazu Yahara (Japan, Co-chair of APBON)
 - Due to the pandemic of COVID 19, holding regularly scheduled web seminars (around twice in three months) was proposed (this idea was raised by APBON's three co-chairs meeting)
 - The secretariat of the APBON (Ministry of the Environment of Japan) is kindly offering the IT infrastructure supports for holding web seminars.
15:10-15:50 Presentation 1: Dr. Yongyut Trisurat (Thailand)
“Digital Atlas of Trees and Wildlife in Thailand: Transforming Analog Localities to Web-based GIS Maps”
Q and A session
 - Have you considered the newly proposed protected area target on Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABT) (30% of the land should be protected)?
 - Thirty percent is quite ambitious. I believe 24-25% is suitable for Thailand when I consider the forest coverage in Thailand.
 - The year 2020 is time for evaluation of the ABT. In Indonesia, we are re-designing the next 10,20,30 years for the post ABT. How do you think of the design of the post ABT? Does Thailand have its own design for evaluation?
 - Even though Thailand has 21 protected areas, the assessment of the protected area management effectiveness has not completed in Thailand. The quality of the protected

area is very important. I was luckily invited to make a master plan of the protected areas. Thus, I would like to use this opportunity and make a contribution.

- Do you register the distribution data to GBIF?
 - No. The distribution map in low resolution can be checked and downloaded on the data paper of the Ecological Research. The data on animal and plants are also available on the website below. Your data can be posted to the website as well.
(<http://geospecies.dyndns.org/GeoSpecies/examples/tree/>)
- What is the most critical part of Climate change impacts on biodiversity prediction?
 - The data resolution is different between Climate change-related ones and biodiversity data.
- Do you have any plan to evaluate the impact of human disturbance/climate change on rare species? I was wondering if you might need more occurrence data for these species for robust analysis. It means we need more field observation.
 - I do not conduct any research about that but my student from Nepal is researching climate change impact on wildlife in national parks.
- Do you have any data about OECM in Thailand?
 - No. You would better to ask to a CBD focal point of Thailand (the department of national parks).

15:50-16:30 Presentation 2: Dr. Sheila Vergara

(ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Co-chair of APBON)

“Status of Coastal and Marine Conservation in the ASEAN region”

Q and A session

- How can we regulate and manage MPAs in efficient ways? Even in Japan, most MPAs are practically not in good management (i.e. called paper MPAs), and thus just increasing the area coverage 10% is not sufficient. We need to think about how we can install MPAs with good management. Do you have any ideas on this point?
 - There is a very low management effectiveness right now. A lot of MPA management plans have been copied from other MPAs one. Capacity building is needed. However, countries are moving forward. We should find out what are the issues (e.g. the participation from local communities, policy gaps between local policy and governmental policy). There has to be collaborations with local plans and MPA plans. It has to be institutionalized and have collaborations with industries, education, etc. We have to have a comprehensive gap analysis.
- Could you show the last slide that shows MPA map? In the case of Japan, most of the coastal areas are covered by any regulation. But not like that in the offshore. I suspect a limited number of the offshore protected areas also in the AP region. Is there any discussion for Offshore (within EEZ) , High Sea(Beyond EEZ) MPA?

- The data on the slide is based on the ABT reporting. It means MPA in the jurisdictions. Setting MPA in offshore and outside of EEZ has not been discussed during the last 6th national report meeting. During the recent webinar on MPA, conservation of the offshore area and transboundary MPA was discussed but not extended. The establishment of the MPA network is under discussion. A peace park in the West Philippines Sea / South China Sea was under discussion as well but the political situation is very difficult right now.
- Is there any collective effort regionally (within/beyond ASEAN by NGO or member states) to look at conservation of marine animals (eg. marine mammals or turtles) that is transboundary in nature?
 - National sea turtles corridors have been made supported by the Conservation International (CI). Sea turtles conservation plan has been submitted by CI as well. DFN or Asean Primarily? Network has set up the network of ASEAN seabird surveys.
- I am wondering if one reason the ASEAN region lags behind MPA area establishment versus the world is because so much of the ASEAN coastline has high human population. While large MPAs around the world have been in remote island chains (Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, for example, which has very few people) and other remote areas?
 - Coastal management in the ASEAN region is complicated. Some countries have high human population in the coastal area. It is also related to overexploitation and pollution etc. as well. For terrestrial, transboundary discussion is more advanced. However, the transboundary arrangement of MPA is under discussion. For example, the Philippines, Palawan, Sabah are under discussion but there was an issue and had not happened yet.
- Is there any assessment of the representation of the marine ecosystem?
 - Marine ecosystem assessments are carried when MPA plans are made. Coral reef, seagrasses, mangrove, etc. Several NGOs (e.g. Mangrove for the future assesses mangroves) also carry surveys. The different organization has different focus and aspects/process.
- How well-represented coastal ecosystems are?
 - It was very few inland ecosystem protected areas before. The establishment of the Asia Flyway Network has been changed the situation.

16:30-17:00

General Discussion: Chaired by Dr. Yahara

- How can we promote these kinds of web activities in the future? How do you think about this meeting? Is it effective?
 - The webinar was good. Targets of the webinar could be younger scientists (e.g. post-doctoral students). It would be informative. The webinar part and discussion part can be divided and webinar would be held with more people.
- Has the GEOSS meeting canceled?
 - Tentatively, it will be held on next Feb. It is going to be decided in September. China GEO is planning to host capacity-building events. Coordination boards will decide the detail.
- We have time before the IUCN meeting and CBD meeting. We can have a meeting about how we can use these opportunities. It could be very important.
 - Input to CBD and IUCN is important. It has been prioritized on the new APBON strategic plan as well. We may be able to discuss that on the next APBON webinar or with a small group of people.
 - We are still flexible to organize APBON meeting/ webinar. We can focus on strategic action as well.
- How the next strategic plan will be discussed on CBD?
 - The secretariats of the CBD launched the first draft of post ABT (the updated version of the zero draft of the post ABT) last week. SBSTTA24 and SBI3 will be held probably on this October. IUCN Congress is planned to be held on January 2021, CBD COP15 is May 2021. (all of these are tentative)
- How about doing a meeting with this structure during this year? Small business meetings can be held as well.
 - Dr. Alice Hughes can make a presentation about “COVID 19 and conservation sector” next time.
 - The presentation from freshwater researcher is also expected. (Dr. Yahara will ask Dr. Kano to recommend a presenter)

17:00

Closing and Announcements: Secretariat to APBON

- The next meeting will be held at the end of August, with 2 presentations. One is by Dr. Alice, and the other will be recommended by Dr. Kano. The agenda will be later informed by the Secretariats.