

Workshop on METT/MEAT Workshop for the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park
Tubbataha Management Office, Puerto Princea City, Palawan
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Ms. Pagliawan gave an overview of the assessment by explaining the rationale and background of the activity, as the objective and expected outputs, and discuss each of the assessment parameters. She said that the purpose of the workshop was to review and assess the effectiveness of how well marine protected area (MPA) are being managed in terms of protecting its values and achieving the management's goal and objectives. Two (2) assessment tools introduced by the DENR, which are also used by other MPA outside of the country, the MPA Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) and the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) were used.

The MEAT essentially aims to assess the governance structure in terms of enforcement, implementation and maintenance of the park. The marine protected areas could categorize into four (4) levels of performance according to thresholds or parameters satisfied and years of establishment of MPAs. In the recent MEAT/METT workshop conducted in 2016 for the Tubbataha Reefs, the park already reached Level 4 (Institutionalized), the highest category for MPA. It also obtained 100% scores on all management focus.

On the other hand, METT is another self-assessment tool usually administer to PAMB and management staff to provide quick overview on progress of management effectiveness of a protected area. The tool is composed of two parts: (1) ranking and evaluating the threats faced by the MPA, and (2) identifying/ranking of issues in management cycle. In 2016, the Tubbataha Reefs garnered 92% in planning cycle. Gaps were also noted such as insecurity of budget, improvement in law enforcement, lack in equipment, and inadequacy in staff number, among others. In the past METT workshops, TPAMB and TMO staff answered the form individually. This time, the staff answered the tool on a plenary where they should come up with consensus scores in each criteria and threats.

The answers for both tools were encoded in the scoring sheets for facilitation of score computation.

Part I. Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT)

Ms. Pagliawan facilitated the use of tool by asking the guide questions/criteria. The management staff responded 'yes' and 'no' for the scoring and gave list of evidences or 'proofs' as means of verifications of reaching the targets, such as management plan, minutes of meetings, laws, etc.

The assessment concluded with presenting the result of the tool. Tubbataha remained at level 4 (institutionalized) status, obtaining 100% scores on all management focus.

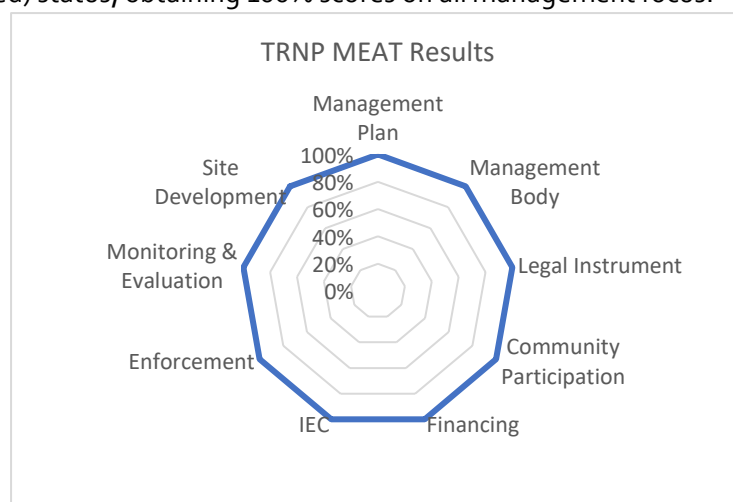


Figure 1. Results of MEAT of TRNP.

Part II. Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT).

Ms. Pagliawan discussed each of the assessment parameters in the METT form starting off with the parameters on threats while participants gave their own evaluation score. The TMO staff identified the threats by ranking according to the seriousness of degradation it poses to the values of TRNP. Ranking ranged from high to low significance, no data, or not applicable. Seven (7) threats ranked as 'high' were identified. From this result, several strategies and actions were formulated to be implemented in the next two to five years to address these threats. Below is the table of high-ranking threats identified by the TMO staff and future actions to address them.

Table 1. Priority threats and future action plan to address them.

Threats	Future Actions
5.4 Fishing, killing, and harvesting aquatic resources	Continued IEC, patrolling, enforcement monitoring (RADAR and AIS)
7.3d Loss of keystone species	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction of temporary nesting structures.• Assisted regeneration of vegetation.• Provision of nesting materials for Black Noddy.
9.4 Garbage and solid waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue the collection (surface water and coastal clean-up) and classification of marine debris.• Enforcement of administrative order on banning single-use plastics in TRNP.• Continuous inclusion of this topic in IEC activities.
10.4 Erosion and siltation / deposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular beach profiling of Bird Islet and formulate mitigating measures.• Assisted regeneration of trees.
11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	Assisted regeneration of vegetation
11.3 Temperature extremes	Regular monitoring and report of bleaching incidents (from rangers, tourists, dive masters)
11.4 Storms and flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular monitoring of the effect of storms to corals.• Construct new ranger station.

The second part of the METT was assessing the effectiveness of the management by scoring each element of management cycle – context, planning, input, process, and output/outcome. The scoring ranged from 0-3, with three having the highest value. Indigenous people (IP) under element of Process were excluded in the scoring because Kagayanen, the community in Cagayancillo, were not considered IPs. The TRNP is also excluded from the IPAF because of it has its own law that has sole authority over its fund, thus this question was also omitted. Hence, a cumulative score of 101 will be the total score instead of 105.

The results of the assessment showed TMO staff gave the overall management a total score of 97 out of 101 points, which is equivalent to a 96% average score. The Context (100%), Planning (100%), and Process (97%) were given the highest scores. Meanwhile, the lowest two in the assessment ranking were Input and Outcome/Output with 92% scores. Gaps were identified and future actions were crafted by the TMO staff to be implemented in the next two to five years :

Table 2. Gaps and action plan to address the issues.

Criteria	Issues	Future actions to address the issues
Input	Resource Inventory	Expand network with the academe to implement species-specific research; study on erosion of islet
	Security of budget	Establish plantilla positions to secure government appropriations
Output/Outcome	Visitor Facilities	Install additional mooring buoys
Process	Management budget	Core activities and operations shall be funded by the TPAMB instead of sourcing out external support; External support will only fund activities outside of the Work and Financial Plan

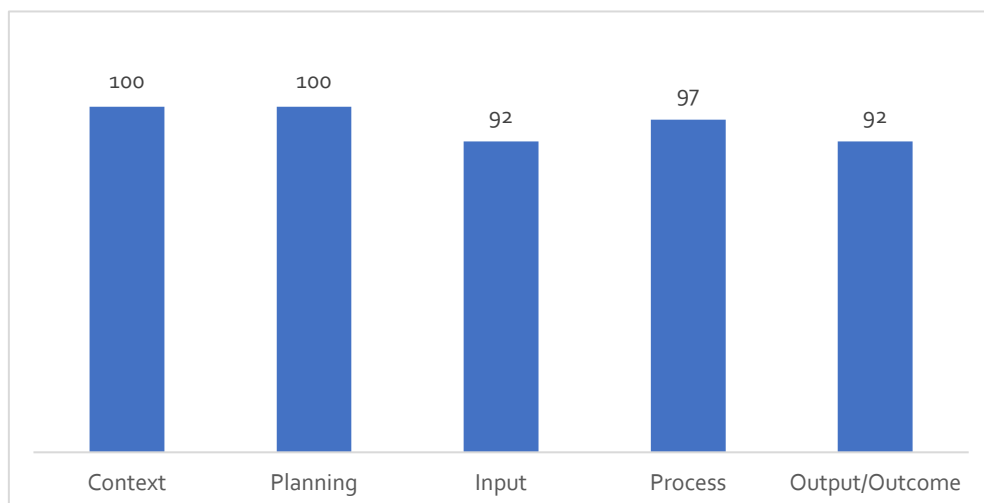


Figure 2. Percentage scores per IUCN-WCPA Element based on the METT response of the TMO staff.

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