

## **Summary of Recommendations for PIMPAC Organization and Operations And Activities for 2006**

Members of the Pacific Islands Marine Protected Area Community (PIMPAC) Resource Group came together in Honolulu, HI from February 1-3, 2006 to develop recommendations for services to address the priority needs and requests of PIMPAC members, identified at the August 28-31, 2005 meeting in Guam, and subsequent discussions and other correspondence with PIMPAC members. The resource group consisted of representatives from various organizations who provide MPA services within the PIMPAC region including the University of Guam (UoG), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Community Conservation Network (CCN), The Nature Conservancy- Hawaii (TNC). This document summarizes the outcomes of this meeting. All PIMPAC members are encouraged to provide comments to the PIMPAC co-coordinators and The Interim Steering committee, as the elements are refined over the next several months

The meeting produced two major products:

**I. Recommended Organizational Structure and Operations Plan**, which describes the role of a PIMPAC steering committee, and the various bodies which will support PIMPAC activities; and,

**II. Recommended Year One PIMPAC Activities.** These recommended activities include development of a regional workshop MPA management planning, tentatively planned for the late summer of 2006; follow-up training visits to each island; site exchanges; enhanced capacity assessments of the needs of specific MPA sites or programs; efforts to develop academic institution capacity; and development of a PIMPAC database.

### **I. Recommended PIMPAC Organization Structure and Operations**

The organization structure and operations proposal outlined below is designed for practical and efficient implementation of PIMPAC's objectives, based on local conditions, the MPA expertise already existing within the community, and opportunities for innovation in providing services through an informal network of MPA managers in the Pacific. Proposed elements of this structure to consider would include the following:

#### ***Basic Structure***

The Pacific Islands MPA Community is a forum for the sharing of information, expertise, and experience to build capacity throughout the Pacific Islands region to support the effective development and management of MPAs. It will remain an informal, loose network of MPA managers in the region and has three working bodies: a Steering Committee, Co-coordinators housed at NOAA and (TBD), and a Resource Group. These working bodies will be responsible for proposing and developing annual work plans and specific tasks and activities to meet the needs of the region's MPA managers. All members of PIMPAC are encouraged to participate in providing input by providing the

PIMPAC co-coordinators with suggestions and feedback on how best to meet the needs of the region's MPA managers.

***PIMPAC Steering Committee***

The steering committee will be made up of representatives of each island in the PIMPAC Service area (i.e., Hawaii, American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, Marshall Islands, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau). They will also represent a cross section of organizations types (e.g. local government & local NGO) and/or positions (e.g. local MPA managers, local fisheries managers etc.)

The interim steering committee from the Guam workshop will remain active until islands that are not currently represented on the committee have identified a representative to participate in steering committee activities. The filling of the steering committee is expected to occur by August of this year or at the regional workshop on MPA Management Planning. A more detailed terms of reference will be circulated in the near future on the development of this committee.

The members of the interim steering committee are currently: (1) Mr. Marion Henry (FSM), (2) Mr. Willy Kostka (Pohnpei), (3) Mr. Noah Idechong (Palau), (4) Mr. Terry Keju (RMI), (5) Ms. Athline Clark (Hawaii), (6) Ms. Laina Vaitaulolu (American Samoa), (7) Robert Jackson (Kosrae)

The steering committee will be responsible for working with the co-coordinators and the PIMPAC community in establishing priorities and providing input for the development of annual work plan. Upon completion of work plan, the steering committee provides guidance and assistance as appropriate in implementing work plan activities. They will also evaluate annual progress of PIMPAC and provide input for future activities.

All relevant correspondence regarding PIMPAC work plans and activities will be sent to the whole community to let everyone know what and when the steering committee will be making recommendations to. This will allow people to contact their steering committee member directly if they have not already been contacted. We will also report on what has been decided by the SC, including a summary of the discussion and why things were decided so that decisions are transparent.

**The roles and responsibilities of the steering committee members are to:**

- Provide advice to co-coordinators for the development of the PIMPAC work plan including all activities to be carried out by the co-coordinators.
- Be available and responsive to the PIMPAC co-coordinators should they have questions or need advice to implement the work plan. Steering committee members will be provided a minimum of one week to respond to co-coordinators input requests. If at any point they will not be available (for instance, due to travel) they should inform the co-coordinators of this unavailability so alternate plans can be made.

- Ensure appropriate contact is made with agencies and organizations in addressing PIMPAC matters in their jurisdictions, across all government and non-governmental organizations.
- Review the annual progress of the PIMPAC work plan.
- Provide advice on how the co-coordinators may improve the PIMPAC initiative overall and alert the co-coordinators to any opportunities whereby the implementation of PIMPAC may be improved.
- Assist with fundraising for the PIMPAC initiative where possible.

#### **???? & NOAA Co-coordinators**

There will be two coordinators (one housed at (TBD) and one housed at NOAA Pacific Services Center in Honolulu). The co-coordinators' main responsibility is for day-to-day implementation of the PIMPAC initiative and work plan.

#### **The roles and responsibilities of the co-coordinators are to:**

- Maintain periodic formal and informal communication with island MPA managers to understand status and activities of and priority needs for each island's MPA program(s); provide and gather information necessary to support the development of and update PIMPAC work plans; and coordinate among community members to link members who could benefit from one another's experience or expertise (this may include assistance in setting up site exchange visits).
- Support the development of annual work plans based on guidance of the steering committee, with consideration of policy and procedures of grant requirements of NOAA and (TBD). Coordinators will maintain close communication to ensure consistent information delivery to participants.
- Once the work plan has been developed and reviewed by the steering committee members, the co-coordinators are to support the implementation of activities of the work plan. Co-coordinators will seek to implement through participant consensus. However, if there are significant differences among participants, the issue will be brought back to the steering committee for further advice.
- Correspond with PIMPAC steering committee and entire PIMPAC community quarterly to provide updates on regional activity and to receive guidance on work plan and activities.
- Organize and coordinate with the PIMPAC resource group to support the development of work plans and match needs of MPA managers in islands with possible service providers or technical expertise. Also, keep informed of the regional programs and activities of these service providers.
- Identify opportunities to work with funding providers, both governmental and non-governmental, to advocate PIMPAC activities and look for additional support.
- Coordinate all PIMPAC communication logistics to ensure timely and effective implementation of the PIMPAC initiative.
- Write semi-annual and annual reports to steering committee, NOAA, and (TBD).

### ***PIMPAC Resource Group***

The resource group will work with the PIMPAC co-coordinators as needed to support the development of work plans with steering committee guidance and will provide technical assistance, training, and other services as needed to implement the work plan. A core group of resource providers who have agreed to participate in PIMPAC consists of TNC (both the Hawaii and Micronesia Program Offices), CCN, and the Locally Managed Marine Areas group (LMMA), UoG, NOAA, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). At the request of the Coordinators, any other person or entity with the time and expertise to assist in meeting PIMPAC objectives can join the group.

The resource group will meet with the co-coordinators as needed to clarify their individual and collective capabilities and respond to needs identified by the steering committee and the co-coordinators. In some cases, highly experienced individuals or organizations may be contracted to help support the co-coordinators on a more regular basis.

The NOAA coral program will provide core funding to support the co-coordinator positions, and to fund the key elements in the work plan, consistent with congressional appropriations, and other priorities of the NOAA coral program.

#### **The responsibilities of the Resource Group Members are to:**

- Assist the co-coordinators to support the development of the work plan for approval by the steering committee.
- Identify projects or trainings that their organizations are implementing within the region that will support or complement the PIMPAC work plan and benefit MPA managers in specific jurisdictions, such that there is integration among service providers as it relates to MPAs.
- Work with the co-coordinators on specific tasks associated with the implementation of PIMPAC. This may include organizing workshops, providing training on specific topics, helping with fundraising, etc.

## **II. Recommended PIMPAC Activities for 2006**

### ***MPA Training***

Several priority MPA training topic areas were identified through last year's outreach surveys and the Guam workshop. These include MPA management planning, enforcement, monitoring, outreach & education, and overall MPA administration. However, because none of these was clearly identified by *all* workshop participants, the top priority was not obvious. Therefore, the most effective approach seemed to be the development of a long-term strategy for building a series of training modules that address the essential components of an effective MPA (e.g., planning, community outreach/participation, monitoring, enforcement, etc).

The resource group further recommends that the first year's modular training topic be management planning. While the focus of this training will be to support existing sites in the development of management plans, this information will also be useful for areas that currently do not have MPAs.

. This topic is recommended for several reasons:

- 1) It was identified by several managers in the region as a priority
- 2) It would provide a solid foundation for effective MPA management
- 3) MPA management planning encompasses discussion on several components of effective management, and therefore a module can be developed to incorporate information on all characteristics of effective MPAs. This should help managers identify gaps or future priority needs.
- 4) There are several models of MPA management planning within the region that can be utilized to deliver immediate training that is applicable to PIMPAC members and provide follow-up.

To deliver this training and foster long-term capacity building, the resource group recommends a three step approach:

**Step 1) Development of a training module on MPA Management Planning**

Representatives from various resource agencies that have current models for this type of training (e.g., LMMA, TNC, NOAA, CCN, Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP)) will meet in early May, to develop the training module with 4-5 local island representatives that are experienced in MPA planning and management. An MPA management plan training module will be developed and a training workshop will be planned. An outline of academic curricula will also be developed around this training module to be shared with regional academic institutions (described below).

**Step 2) Hold an MPA Management Planning Workshop**

An MPA management planning training for a larger group of MPA practitioners from the region would be held in the late summer of this year. Two MPA managers from each island will be requested to attend the workshop. As part of the requirements for attendance, those representatives must agree to utilize information towards developing site MPA management plans within their jurisdictions and be "island coordinators". They will help facilitate and carry out training in their jurisdiction with "experts" who will assist in the on island process. The experts will then also provide them more focused assistance in developing their management plan but also be there for others in the jurisdiction that may also want assistance.

**Step 3) Follow-up visits to Individual Islands**

Throughout the next couple of years a PIMPAC resource expert will be sent to each jurisdiction to help carry out management planning training for a larger group of local islanders. These island-specific trainings will be more focused on a

particular island or MPA site planning needs. It is intended that the island coordinators will use the skills learned from the regional training workshop and become the on-island experts to continue to assist with future trainings and planning processes.

It is anticipated that second year training activities will focus on a second regional training module, as well as more island-specific trainings or exchanges. The year-two training topic will be decided within the second half of the first year's activities. Through this approach it is hoped that island-wide capacity will be built within the next five years, resulting in a team of experts on each island that can support effective MPA management

### ***Site Exchange Visits***

In addition to on-site topic training, PIMPAC co-coordinators and other members of the resource group will work with local MPA practitioners to develop proposals for site exchanges. It is anticipated that at least three site exchanges will be conducted in year one. To be considered for site visit opportunities, islands must develop a proposal with clear goals and objectives for the trip and coordinate with host island staff to ensure there is adequate understanding of the purpose of the trip and support for visitors. Proposals must demonstrate that exchanges are a.) well planned in advance b.) have a tangible output associated with them and c.) be connected to broader goals of PIMPAC. PIMPAC co-coordinators will support making these connections, and assist in identifying funding, and technical assistance to support these exchanges.

### ***Capacity Assessment Tool***

Building on the 2005 outreach and workshop report, PIMPAC will develop a tool for program managers to use to determine the capacity they have to effectively manage MPAs within their islands. It is proposed that this assessment will be initiated during the training activities and other PIMPAC site visits. The outcome of these assessments will be a document that outlines very specific human capacity needs (both in staff numbers and training needs) as well as other resource needs, (e.g. equipment, fuel.). The product of this work will comprehensively identify each jurisdiction's MPA needs and will allow local jurisdictions to attract funding from various sources. Although it is not anticipated that NOAA will be able to meet all of the needs, the assessment should assist each island in access other sources of funding

### ***Academic Institution Capacity Building***

Building academic institutional capacity to address the needs of MPA managers in the region will take several years to address. To begin moving toward a long-term goal of developing a marine management program within the region, PIMPAC will focus on making academic institution connections, developing curricula, and piloting an internship program within the first year. (TBD) will take the lead in this effort with assistance from other resource group members where applicable.

PIMPAC will begin in year one focusing on making connections with local community colleges and universities to identify the program capacity to incorporate marine management courses into existing programs. It is anticipated that at least two institutions will make a commitment within this year to incorporate an MPA management curriculum into their programs. PIMPAC will also begin to provide these institutions with a curriculum that will be developed based on the first training module, MPA management planning.

PIMPAC will also work to develop an internship proposal that mirrors the USP model. It is anticipated that at least one intern will be identified to work with a local college or university faculty member to carry out a specific community-based project that supports MPA management. This first year will pilot this project, which is expected to expand in future years to provide internship opportunities throughout the region.

### ***Database Development***

Within year one of PIMPAC implementation, a website will be developed to house PIMPAC information identified at the Guam workshop. At a minimum, this website will house PIMPAC members' contact information, PIMPAC reports, training plans, work plans, and other resource information relevant to regional MPA management. The NOAA MPA Center will lead this effort.

### ***Other***

PIMPAC will also look for opportunities to partner with other project efforts in the region to incorporate MPA management within existing programs, such as Dr. Bob Richmond's academic institution programs, MAREPAC, and various TNC initiatives. Beyond regional efforts, it is anticipated that PIMPAC will look for and welcome international MPA partnership opportunities where applicable. This includes but is not limited to the NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries International MPA program, Fiji LMMA, Tropical MPA Network Learning Partnership (WWF, WCS, CI, and TNC). SPREP, and SPC efforts.