Does your MPA meet the following?

Essential conditions for a well-managed marine protected area (MPA)

1. Community preparation and involvement
   Does the community and the local government understand the need for and the process of implementing an MPA? Are the goals and objectives for management clear and generally acceptable to the stakeholders and community? Is the process consultative and participatory?

2. Resources assessment and mapping
   Has the area been assessed and mapped so that everyone knows the location and condition of resources and the potential boundaries of the MPA? Are the boundaries sufficient for management, physically demarcated, and generally acceptable to the stakeholders and community?

3. Monitoring and evaluation
   Is monitoring and evaluation (M&E) on the progress of the sanctuary regularly undertaken? Are the M&E results fed back to the LGUs, stakeholders, and communities? Are results used as a basis for improving the MPA’s management system?

4. Establishing an MPA requires an integrated and participatory management process involving the partnership of local government units, stakeholders, and communities.

5. Law enforcement
   Is a group organized, trained, and deputized to watch the MPA and to monitor all activities on a consistent and regular basis?

6. Formalizing the MPA and co-management in place
   Is the MPA covered by the appropriate ordinance or legal instruments? Is the local government supporting the MPA together with the community in a mutually beneficial manner? Are financial and human resources for its management regularly provided for? Have other organizations/institutions been tapped for technical and other forms of support?

7. Stable and functional management group
   Has a functional management group been formed or identified and empowered that can manage the MPA at the local level? Is a management plan in place to guide implementation and enforcement of MPA policies and guidelines?

8. Marine protected area or MPA is the general term for marine sanctuary, marine reserve, or marine park. It is a designated area in the sea where fishing or other forms of human access and activities are restricted to protect the area’s ecosystem and natural resources.

Ongoing education and strengthening community involvement

Does the education program meet the needs of the community and stakeholders so that benefits are highlighted and concerns regarding the MPA are addressed?