

Précis of Discussions

Discussions focused on what could be done to prevent further deterioration/reclamation of coast wetlands and how to improve management of MPAs and other important marine areas. Participants suggested that:

- i. Sufficient legislation existed but implementation and enforcement of both national laws and international conventions remained a problem, therefore raising awareness of central and local government is critical;
- ii. when governmental protection fails, local communities are the last line of protection, therefore they need to be provided with accurate and understandable information and the motivation to protect the environment;
- iii. this process can be further enhanced by the involvement of the local community in monitoring, decision making and management as it provides the local community with a sense of ownership; and
- iv. finally all management plans developed for critical habitats should also be developed in conjunction with an implementation plan.