

Marine Protected Area Capacity Building in the Caribbean

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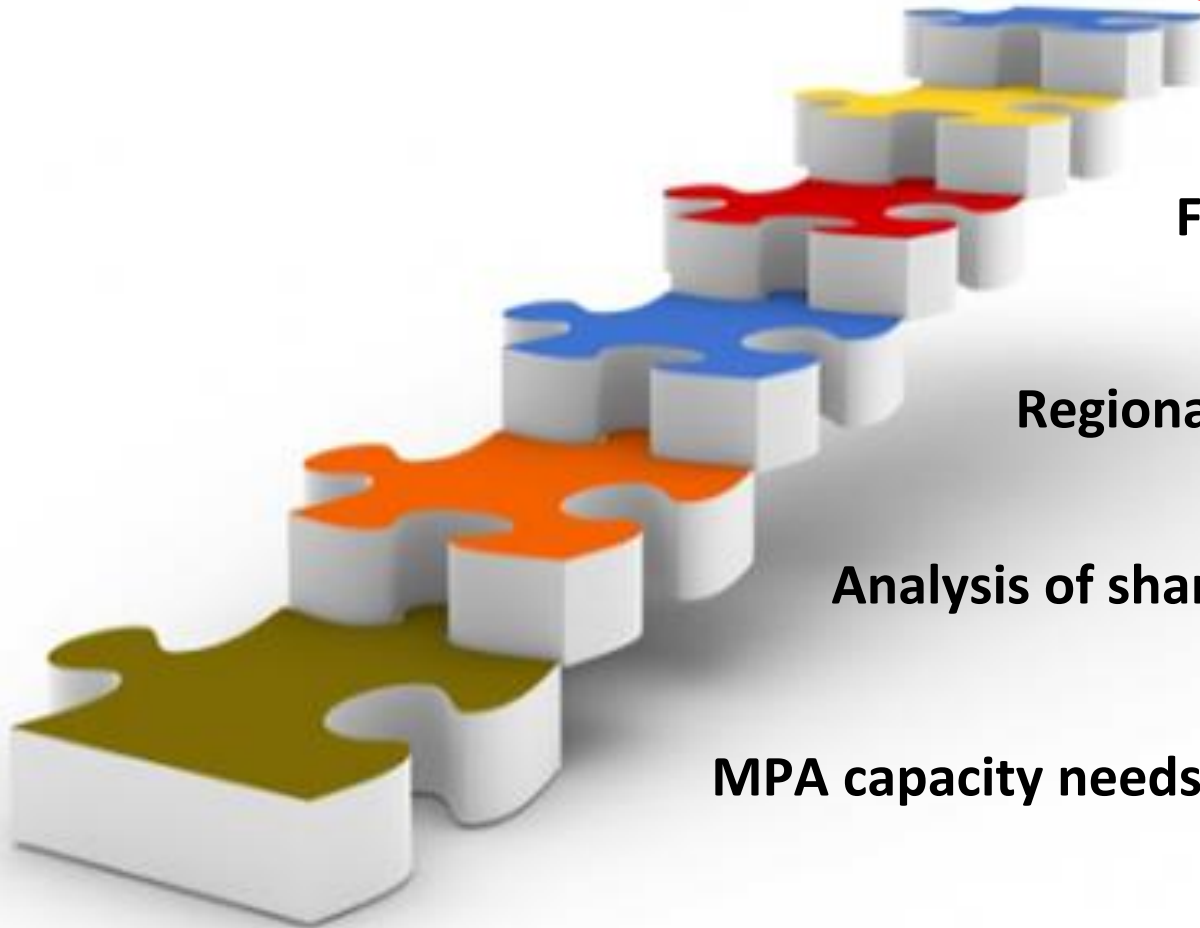
**Regional network of
MPA practitioners**

Follow-up site-level support

Regional peer-to-peer learning

Analysis of shared and site priorities

MPA capacity needs assessment



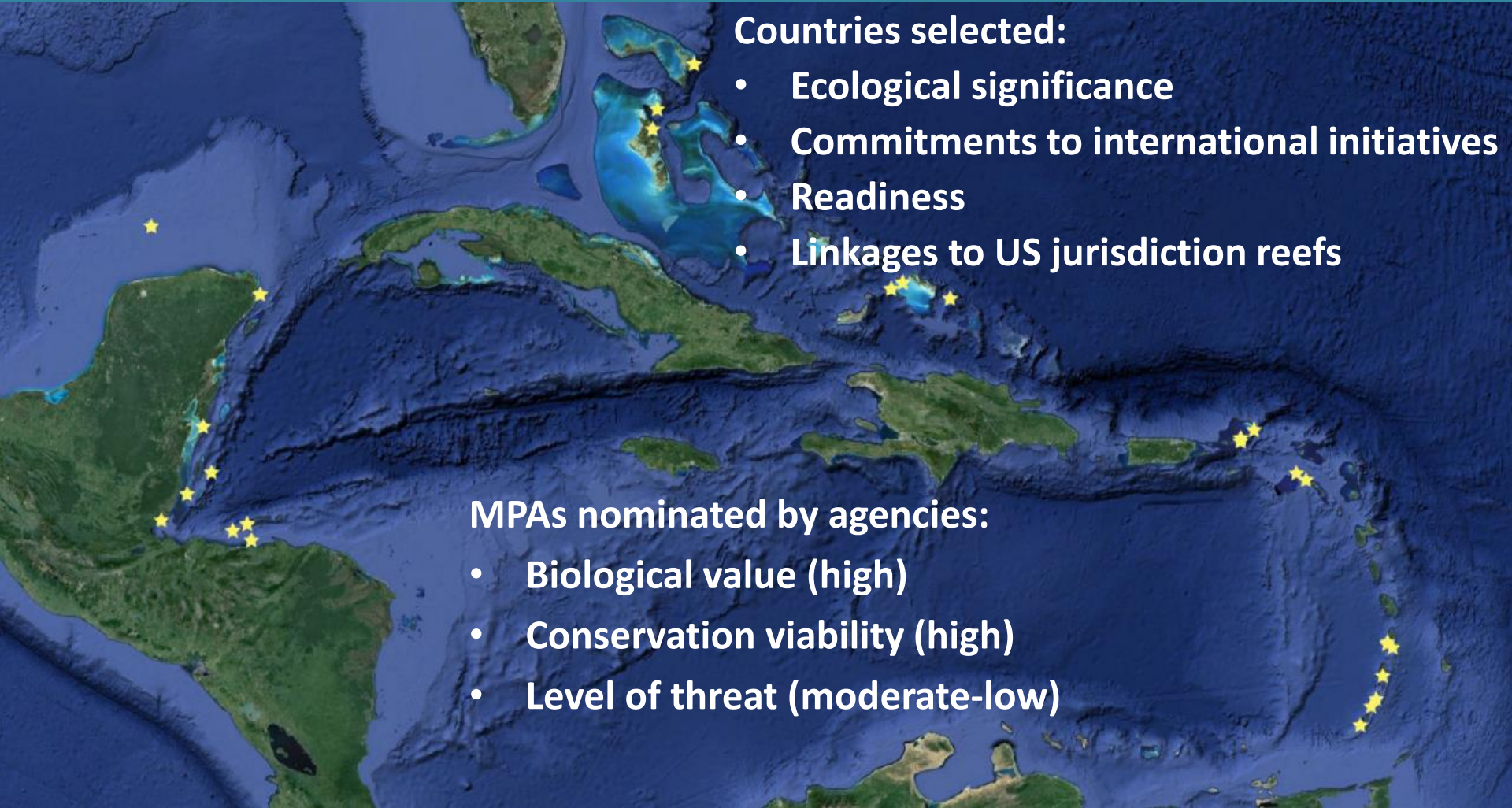
Needs Assessment - 10 Caribbean countries/territories selected, 27 coral reef MPAs nominated by local agencies

Countries selected:

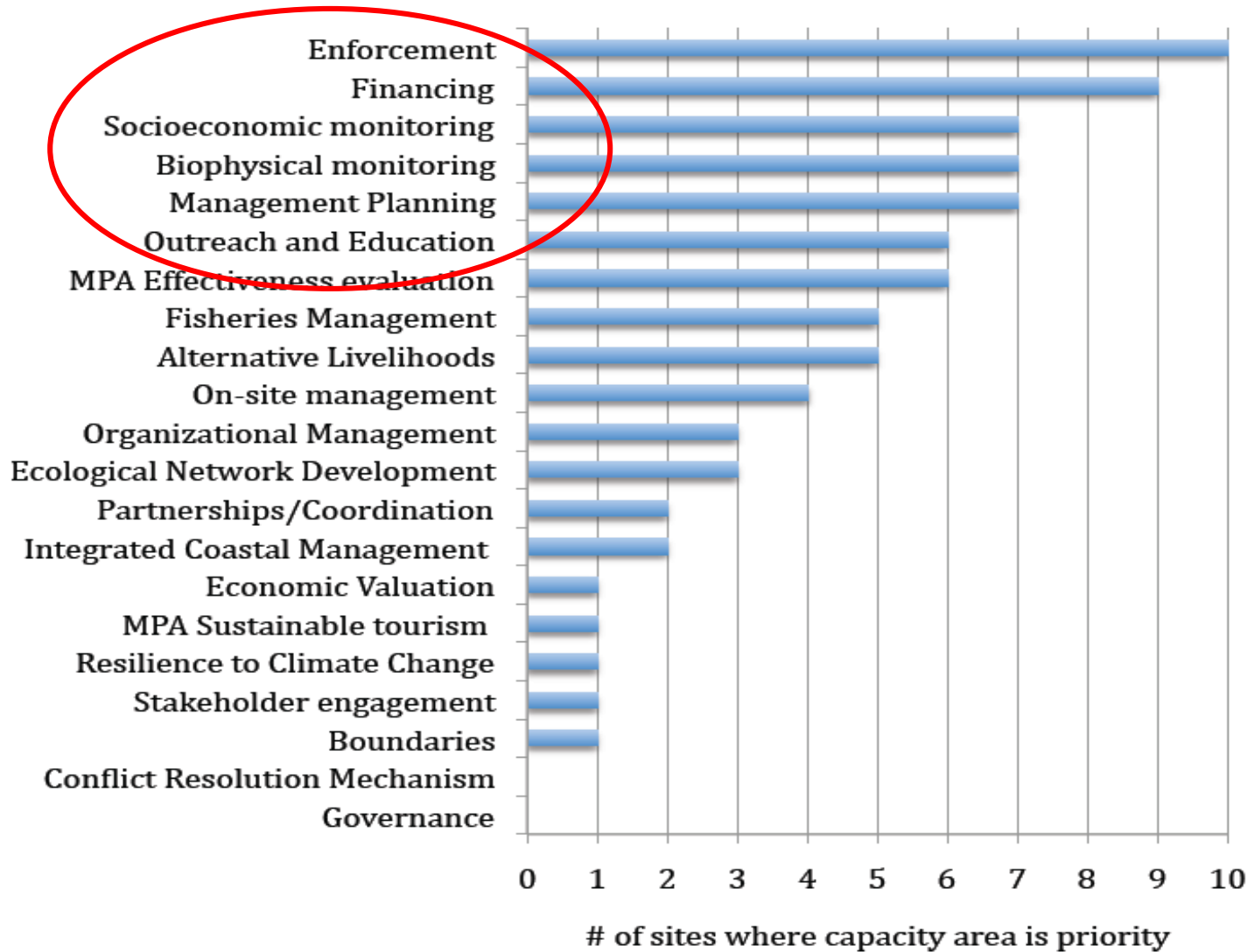
- Ecological significance
- Commitments to international initiatives
- Readiness
- Linkages to US jurisdiction reefs

MPAs nominated by agencies:

- Biological value (high)
- Conservation viability (high)
- Level of threat (moderate-low)



Priority Capacity Building Needs



Regional peer-to-peer learning

Sustainable financing

Enforcement

SocMon

Outreach and education

Bio-physical monitoring



Photos: P. Etienne; E. Doyle; D. Baker

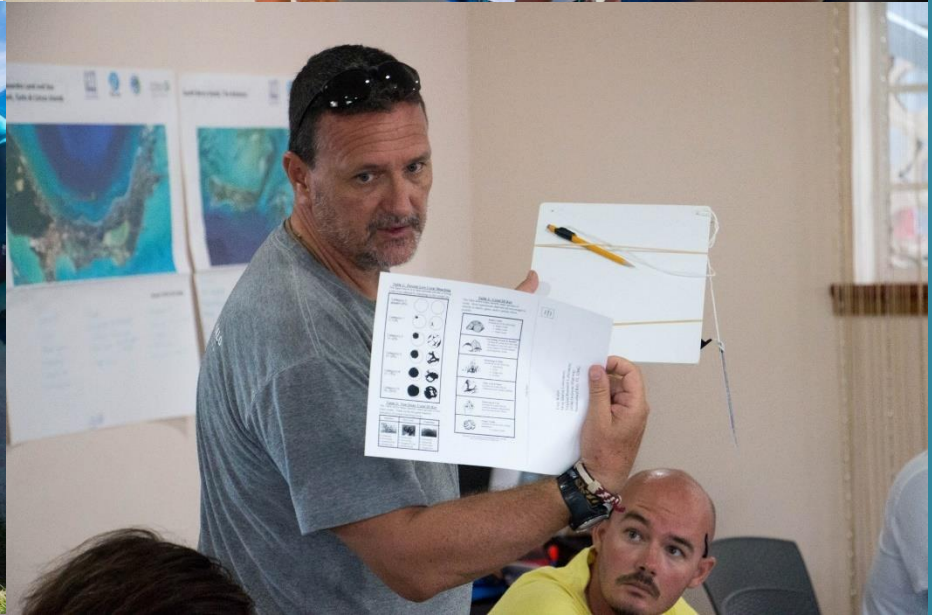


Peer-to-peer learning V

Bio-physical monitoring







Photos: D. Baker



Keeping pace with communications



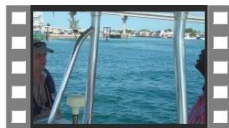
Photos: D. Baker



Thorough search



Teamwork and response



No excuses



Single handed



Talk to your partner



Identify offense and secure



Getting names (trimmed)

Site-level follow-up: MPA enforcement

- 2012-2016 all partner countries, 13 training courses, 265 participants
- Rangers in Belize, BVI and The Bahamas now certified by their governments as official enforcement officers
- Encouraged partnerships with law enforcement agencies for active and consistent MPA enforcement
- Two former trainees from Mexico and Honduras stepped up to assist as enforcement mentors for additional trainings in the region
- Makai Watch learning exchange in Hawaii

Photos: E. Valencio; E. Doyle



Challenges

- **Sustainable financing** requires more than P2P learning - creative and bold solutions backed up by communications
- **Climate change/bleaching** is potentially catastrophic threat, yet many Caribbean MPA managers still don't know how to address it at site
- **Coral restoration** is increasingly a grants theme, but needs to be more carefully assessed by MPAs against their priorities

Opportunities Moving Forward

We'll conduct a re-assessment to measure progress and further guide the capacity building process

Photo: E. Doyle



Take-Home Messages

Focused, sustained assistance, even with limited funding, can have a more consequential impact than larger initiatives that come and go

Photo: P. Etienne



Take-Home Messages

Responding to local needs is critical to success, and the assessment process allowed us to better understand local management needs

The assessment approach is succeeding in raising local management capacity in Wider Caribbean, encouraging self-sufficiency and promoting exchange of successful practices



Thank you to all our network members and partners!



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- 42 Caribbean MPAs involved in learning and sharing
- 35 Caribbean MPAs networking about law enforcement
- 27 priority Caribbean MPAs addressing site-specific management needs
- 90 participants in peer workshops on priority MPA management topics

