

2002 ASEAN CRITERIA FOR MARINE HERITAGE AREAS

Adopted in Vientiane, Laos on 20 November 2002

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
Main Criteria	
Ecological Completeness	The site must demonstrate wholesome ecological processes and must have the capability to regenerate with minimal human intervention.
Representativeness	The site embodies the variety of ecosystems or species representing or typical of ASEAN region.
Naturalness	The area must be, for the most part, in a natural condition. It may be a second growth forest or rescued coral reef formation but the natural processes are still going on.
High Conservation Importance	The site is recognized as a site of REGIONAL significance for the conservation of important or valuable species, ecosystems or genetic resources. It creates or promotes awareness of the importance of nature, biodiversity and ecological process; it evokes respect for nature whenever people see it. There is a feeling of loss whenever the natural condition is lost.
Legally Gazetted Areas	The site must be identified, defined and designated by law or any legally accepted instrument of the owning country. Its boundaries defined and its use should be primarily as a protected area.
Approved Management Plan	The site must have a management plan duly approved by authorities of the AMC
Additional Criteria	
Transboundary	The site may play a role in nutrients, materials or support for species (especially migratory ones) to the region as a whole. Both ecological processes and natural resources, which contribute to the maintenance of species or ecosystems, are often beyond national boundaries.
Uniqueness	The site may possess special features that could not be seen in any other site
High ethnobiological significance	The site may demonstrate harmonious relationships between culture and ecology

Importance for endangered or precious biodiversity	The site could be habitat of importance for endangered flora and fauna
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