2002 ASEAN Criteria for Marine Heritage Areas

Adopted in Vientiane, Laos on 20 November 2002

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| **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 |