

HOW TO PROTECT SPECIAL PLACES ON YOUR LAND AND SEA UNDER THE PROTECTED AREAS ACT 2010

Protected Areas are mainly set up to conserve nature and wildlife. They also help support the sustainable use of resources to meet livelihood needs of local communities and customary owners. Legally protected areas can help support the traditional system, especially for serious infringements (when people break the rules of a protected area) and can provide a tool to formalise and enforce rules and community rights.

Protected Areas is just one way for communities to manage their land and sea for food and livelihoods. Networking with surrounding communities is one of the best ways to create an area to be protected under the National Law. Another way is to formally protect and manage community special areas under the Fisheries Act or relevant provincial ordinance.

Benefits?

- Help a community to protect areas of their land and sea for current and future generations.
- Improve food security for local communities.
- Allow traditional rules to be enforced under the law.
- Protect attractive habitats and species, which may support tourism opportunities.
- Help to maintain traditional knowledge about managing land and sea
- Give plants and animals the opportunity to recover from past unsustainable activities
- Formalise the apply in the area and help enforce serious infringements

The Protected Areas Act 2010 is a national law that gives power to the Minister of Environment the mandate to declare land or sea areas as PROTECTED AREAS. Some Provinces also have Provincial Ordinances which allow protected areas to be set up.

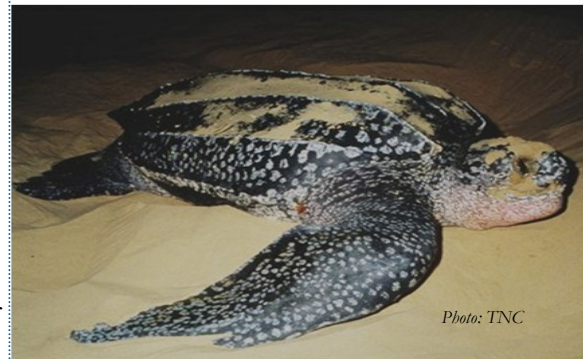


Photo: TNC



Photo: Pikacha

Protected Areas Act 2010 aims to :

- establish a system of protected areas to conserve biological diversity;
- develop guidelines to select, establish and manage these areas;
- manage resources sustainably for the conservation of biological diversity;
- help protect ecosystems and maintain viable populations of species in their natural habitats;
- promote environmentally sustainable development near protected areas; and
- rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote recovery of threatened species.

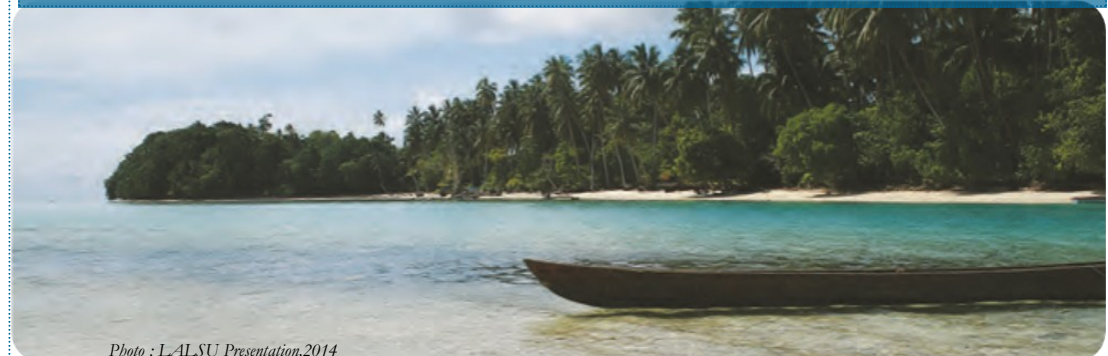


Photo : LALSU Presentation,2014

AREAS OF LAND AND SEA CAN ONLY BE FORMALLY PROTECTED IF LANDOWNERS AGREE TO IT. DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES CAN MAKE A PROTECTED AREA WITH DIFFERENT RULES AND OBJECTIVES, DEPENDING ON WHAT THEY WANT FOR THEIR LAND AND SEA.

5 TYPES OF PROTECTED AREAS

1. Nature Reserves
2. National Parks
3. Natural Monuments
4. Resource Management Areas
5. Closed Areas

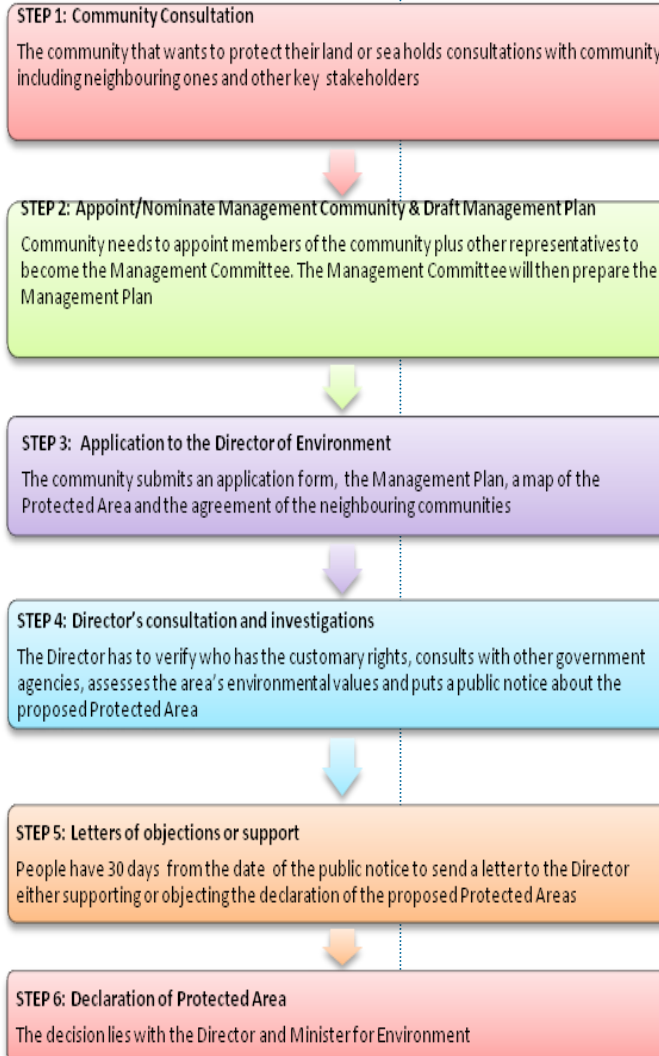
Applicants must identify which type (s) of Protected Areas Category they want. Upon application, the Environment and Conservation Division will verify if the proposed area fits into the requested category.

WHO CAN APPLY:

- Any group of landowners
- NGOs and government
- Landowners DO NOT change after an area becomes protected, but there are restrictions on how the land can be used.



STEPS TOWARDS DECLARATION:



RESTRICTIONS IN PROTECTED AREAS:

- Large-scale Logging and Mining, dragging nets on the sea floor are **PROHIBITED** in all protected areas. Discharging waste or pollution into marine protected areas is also prohibited.
- Other activities are prohibited unless authorised within the Management Plan or by the Management Committee. *Examples include - agriculture, hunting, taking firewood, removing live corals and building.* In some cases, sustainable use of resources by customary landowners is permitted.
- The **Management Committee** and the **Management Plan** are very important as they can decide/set out certain rules for the use of the protected area. The Management Plan will include rules about what activities are restricted in the protected area and what penalties will apply. The types of activities that are prohibited in a management plan will depend on why the communities wants to set up the Protected Area.



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