

Social dimensions of Marine Protected Area (MPA) implementation in India: Do fishing communities benefit?

21 and 22 January 2009
Chennai

Objectives of the workshop

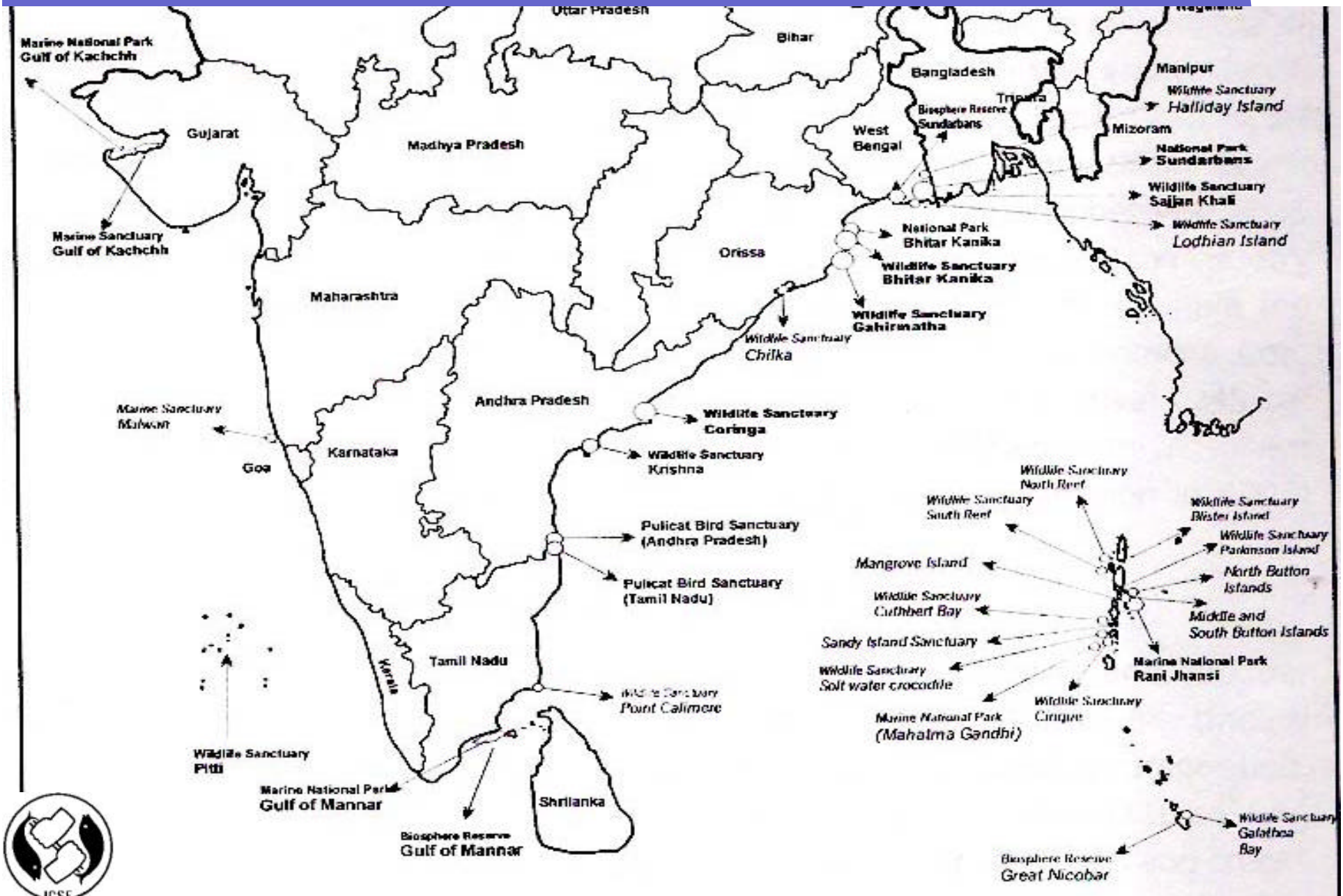
- ✍ To discuss the findings of case studies and of other experiences of MPA implementation in India, from a fishing community perspective;
- ✍ To provide a forum to discuss legal, institutional and other relevant aspects of MPA implementation in India; and
- ✍ To put forward proposals for achieving livelihood-sensitive conservation and management of coastal and fisheries resources.



Major MPAs

- ✍ Gulf of Mannar National Park, Tamil Nadu (1986)
- ✍ Gahirmatha (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary, Orissa (1997)
- ✍ Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park and Sanctuary, Gujarat (1980, Renotified, 1982)
- ✍ Sunderbans Tiger Reserve and Biosphere Reserve, West Bengal (1973, Critical Tiger Habitat, 2007)
- ✍ Malvan (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra (1987, Renotified 1991, 92)





Estimated number of active fishers dependent on major MPAs

- ✍ Gulf of Mannar National Park: 35,000 active fishers, including 5,000 seaweed collectors (mainly women).
- ✍ Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary: 26,682 active fishers
- ✍ Gulf of Kutch MNPS: No exact figures, but about 9,000 active fishers in the area
- ✍ Sunderbans Tiger Reserve: No exact figures
- ✍ Malvan Wildlife Sanctuary: 7 villages with a population of 7,000
- ✍ Total number of active marine fishers in India: 889,528 (CMFRI, 2005)



International framework

- ✍ United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982: Ensure proper conservation and management measures for maintenance of living resources in the EEZ
- ✍ Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), 1995: Ensure responsible fisheries; Recognize preferential access rights of small-scale fishers to traditional fishing grounds
- ✍ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992: Ensure full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in establishment and management of protected areas; Protected areas should contribute directly to poverty alleviation
- ✍ Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Goal 1: Eradication of Poverty; Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability, based on principle of sustainable development

