



Experiences and added value of participatory governance assessments of protected areas in Bangladesh, Laos and the Philippines

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Assessment sites

[Good governance of protected areas](#)

[Piloting the governance assessment methodology](#)

[Governance assessment methodology – steps in the process](#)

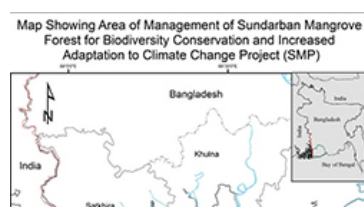
[Strengths and challenges in current protected area governance identified through the assessments \(examples\)](#)

[Benefits from the assessment process itself](#)

[Benefits from the actions implemented as a follow-up of the assessment](#)

Assessment sites

Bangladesh: Sundarbans Mangrove Forest



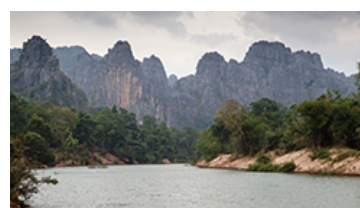
Location & ecosystem type

World's largest continuous mangrove forest located within a massive river delta system between India and Bangladesh

Area

601,700 ha (sanctuaries 317,950 ha, reserved forest 283,750 ha)

Lao PDR: Hin Nam No National Protected Area



Large, dissected karst plateau with 31% forested land, wetland, bare rocks and caves located in central Lao PDR

82,000 ha (boundary under revision)

Philippines: Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary



Natural freshwater wetland with seven major habitat types located in North-eastern Mindanao, the Philippines

19,336 ha (proposed expansion to 40,943 ha)



	Bangladesh: Sundarbans Mangrove Forest	Lao PDR: Hin Nam No National Protected Area	Philippines: Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary
Protection status	UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ramsar Site, 3 national Wildlife Sanctuaries, 3 national Dolphin Sanctuaries, Reserved forest	Tentatively listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is designated as National Protected Area (NPA)	Ramsar Site and declared as a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act
Conservation / ecosystem service value	Crucial role as buffer between land and sea as well as breeding and nursery ground for commercially important fish species, supporting food security	Highly biodiverse flora and fauna, especially primates as well as crucial function in water regulating and provisioning services	Great ecological importance and functions as buffer against floods
Lead agency	Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD)	Agriculture and Forestry Department, Khammouane Province / District Co-management committee (multi-stakeholder body)	Protected Area Management Board, a multi-stakeholder body (including local government and indigenous peoples representatives)
People and livelihoods	No permanent settlements inside the protected area; however a large number of people living in its periphery depend on the mangrove ecosystem for their livelihoods and harvest non-timber forest products and aquatic resources	No permanent settlements inside the protected area; but an estimated beneficiary group of about 10,000 people in 20 villages around the area rely on it for collecting non-timber forest products for their livelihoods	Home to 18,000 Manobo indigenous people; 70% of the marsh's population are dependent on the natural resources for sustaining their livelihoods



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