

Action Planning for Specific Regional Challenges

Module 5: Integrated Management: Planning, Management, and Governance
Duration: 1 Hour

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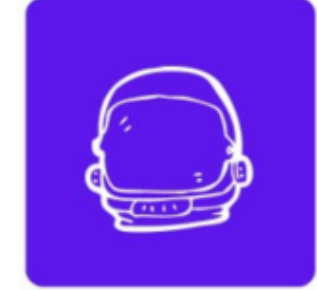
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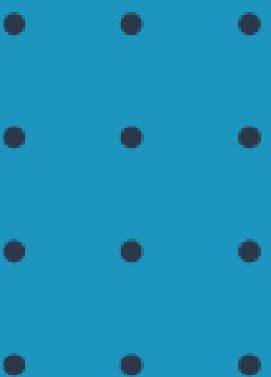


Cyprus



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Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit, you will be able to:

- Understand how action planning supports adaptive management in marine and coastal regions.
- Explore steps for developing regional action plans that address socio-economic and ecological challenges.
- Learn from case studies on successful regional planning efforts (UNEP, 2019)



Introduction

- Regional action plans (RAPs) are **customized frameworks** addressing localized environmental pressures.
- They **link global goals** (SDGs, CBD, Paris Agreement) to **national and local implementation**.
- Key elements:
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Science-based decision-making
 - Governance integration
- Example: Regional Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI-CFF).



Coral Triangle

About the Coral Triangle



Coral Triangle biodiversity

76%



37%

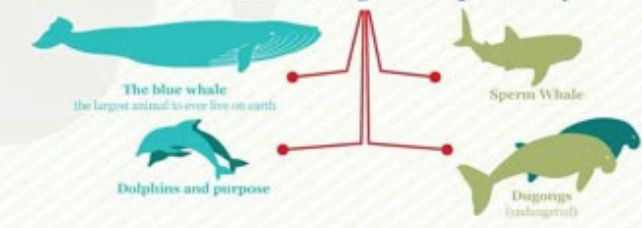


The Coral Triangle has more coral reef fish diversity Than anywhere else in the world

6 of the world's 7
Marine turtle species are found in the Coral Triangle



The Coral Triangle is frequented by:

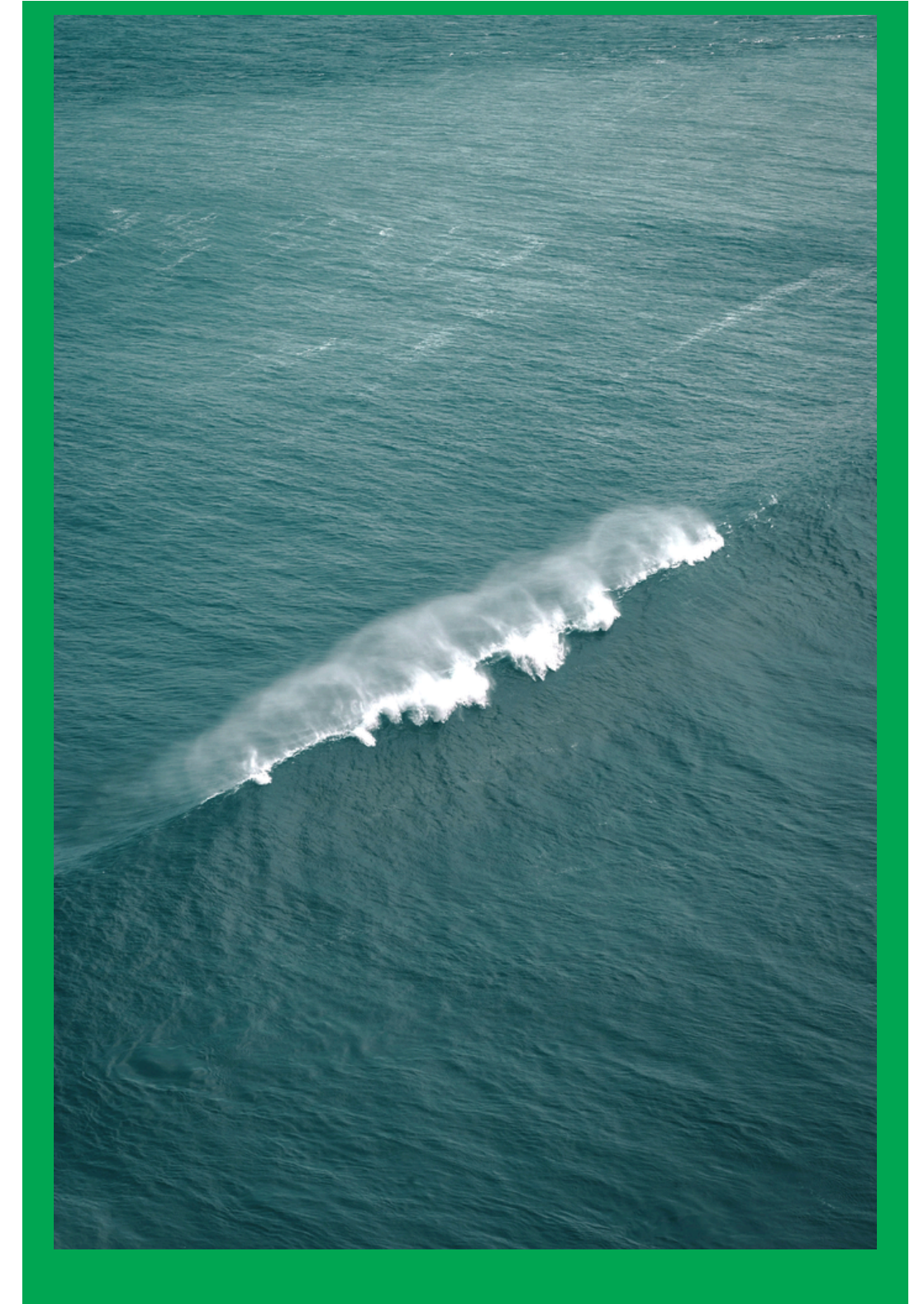


Localizing the Blue Economy

- Every region faces **unique marine and coastal challenges**.
- Localized action plans ensure solutions **fit specific environmental, cultural, and socio-economic contexts**.
- Tailored plans align **local goals** with global sustainability targets like **SDG 14 – Life Below Water**.

Examples of local challenges:

- Coral bleaching in tropical regions.
- Mangrove deforestation in coastal areas.
- Coastal erosion affecting communities.
- Overfishing threatening livelihoods.



Benefits of Local Action Planning

- Addresses **region-specific issues** more effectively than generic solutions.
- Builds **local ownership** and commitment.
- Ensures cultural and traditional practices are **respected and incorporated**.
- Makes it easier to **mobilize local resources** and stakeholders.
- Aligns with **national and international policy goals**.



Elements of Effective Action Plans

1. **SMART objectives:**

- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Relevant
- Time-bound

2. Clear roles and responsibilities for stakeholders.

3. Defined resources and budgets.

4. Measurable indicators and monitoring plan.

5. **Alignment with:**

- National policies
- Global frameworks (e.g. SDG 14)

6. Flexible to adapt to changing environmental conditions.



Regional Case Examples

Coral Triangle (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines):

- Community-based marine protected areas (MPAs).
- Local enforcement reduces illegal fishing.

Gulf of Thailand:

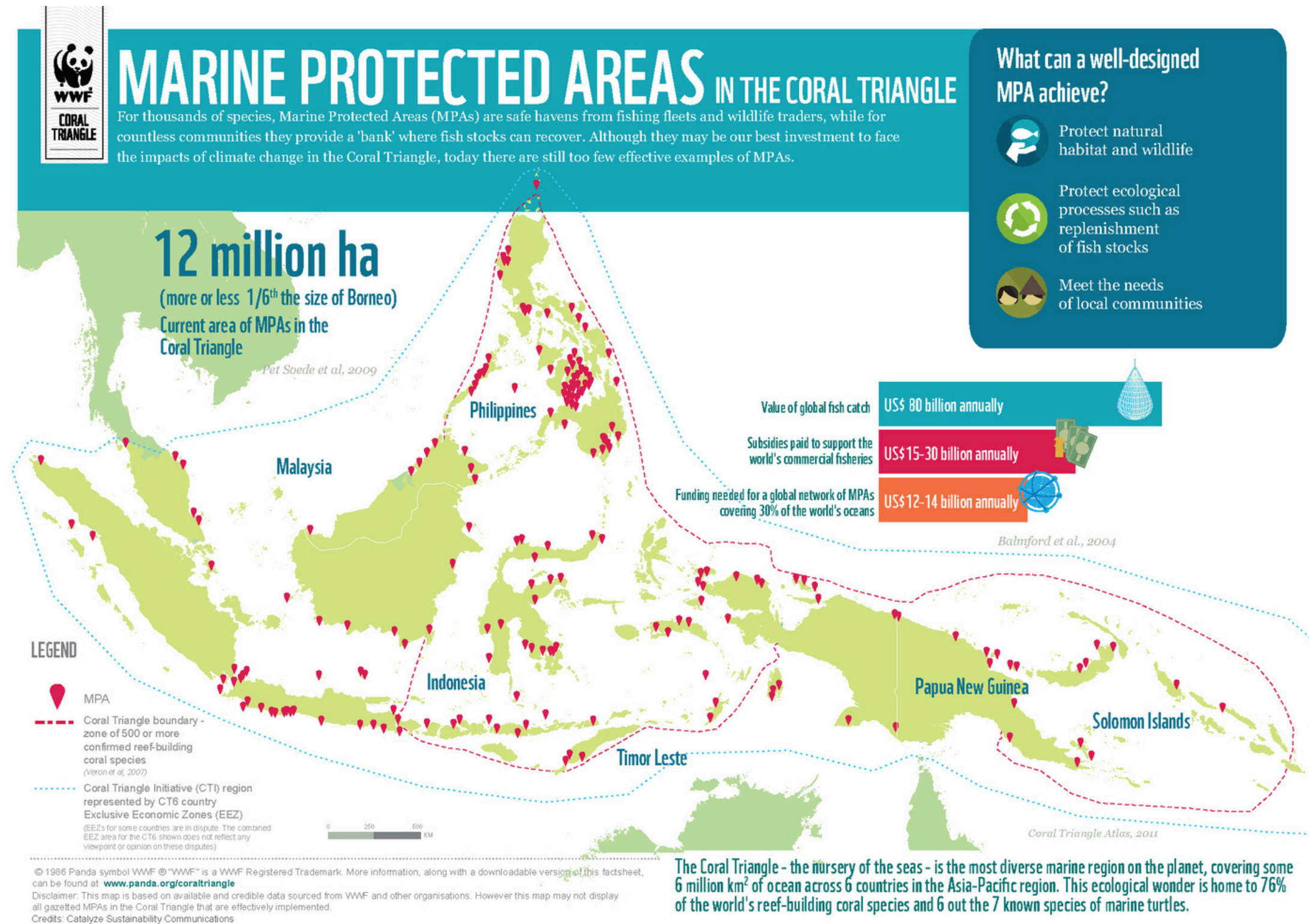
- Mangrove reforestation.
- Combats erosion and supports fisheries.

East Malaysia:

- Marine parks promote ecotourism.
- Provides income for local communities.

Indonesia:

- Coastal zoning plans integrate fishing, tourism, and conservation zones.



Case Study – South China Sea Action Plan

A **UNEP-driven initiative** involving ASEAN countries.

Focus areas:

- Mangrove and coral reef conservation.
- Pollution reduction.
- Sustainable fisheries management.

Key achievements:

- Strengthened **transboundary cooperation**.
- Developed **regional guidelines** for marine protected areas.

Provides a **model for Malaysia's coastal action planning**.

China's Actions in the South China Sea

- China launched research stations on artificial islands (Fiery Cross, Subi Reefs).
- Increased presence in Malaysian waters (Haiyang Dizhi 8 survey ship).
- Created new administrative districts to tighten control over disputed areas.
- Actions deemed illegal under UNCLOS and 2016 tribunal ruling.

International & Regional Reactions

US, Vietnam, Philippines condemned China's moves as "provocative" and destabilizing.

Analysts warn China is exploiting ASEAN's pandemic distraction.

Violates **Declaration on Conduct (DOC)** agreements.

Why ASEAN Must Act

- Protect sovereignty and **prevent militarization** of disputed waters.
- Maintain **ASEAN centrality** and regional stability.
- Urgent need to **finalize a legally binding Code of Conduct (COC)**.



This US Navy photo shows the Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Barry (DDG 52) conducting underway operations on 28 April, 2020 in the South China Sea. (AFP Photo)

Addressing Malaysia's Regional Challenges

Key Issues:

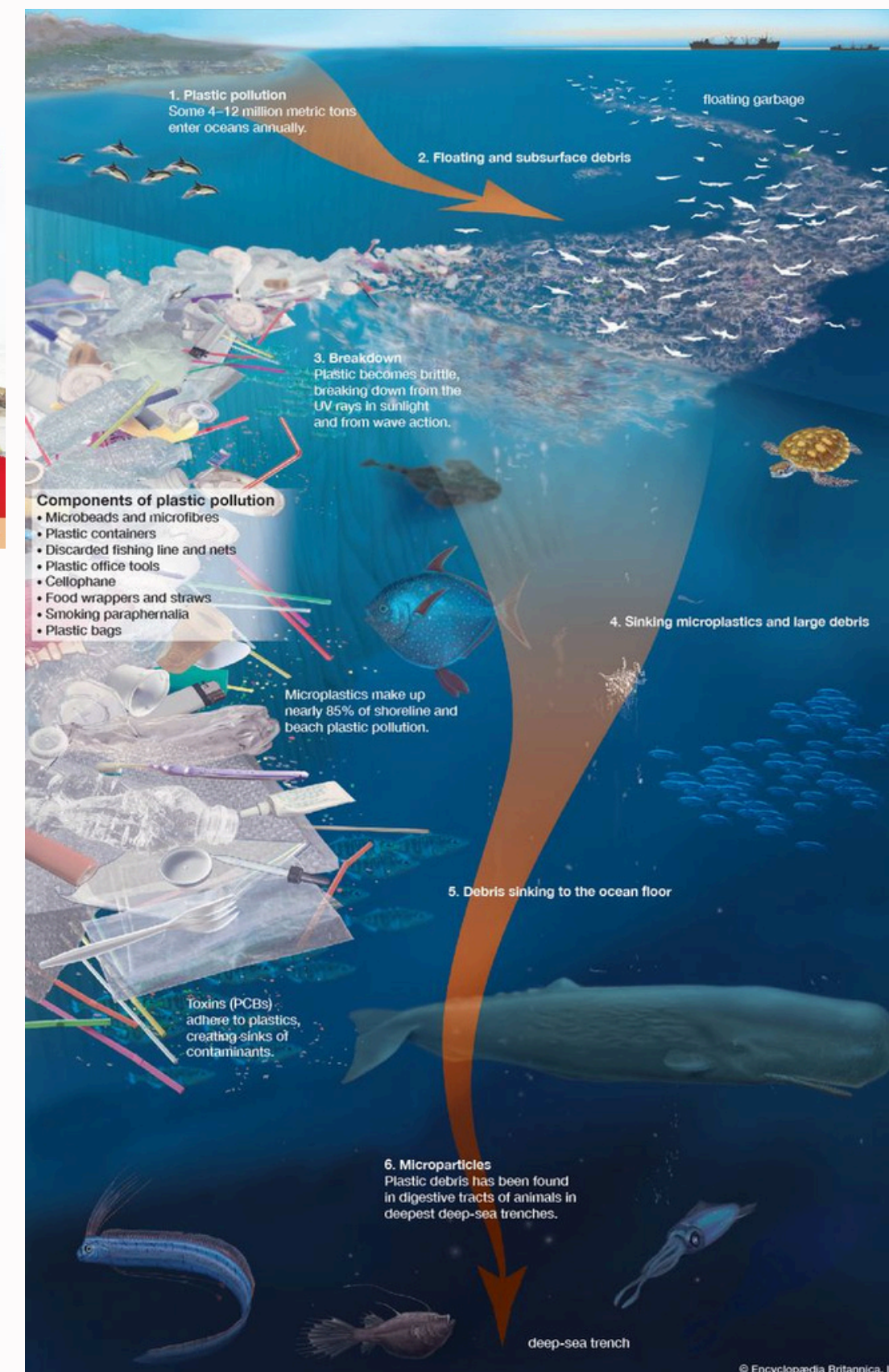
- Coastal erosion, sea-level rise, and reclamation impacts.
- Overfishing and coral bleaching.
- Marine plastic pollution and tourism pressure.

Strategic Actions:

- Nature-based solutions (mangrove restoration, reef rehabilitation).
- Integrated coastal zone management (ICZM).
- Strengthening marine park governance.

(Department of Marine Park Malaysia, 2020)

A conceptual diagram of NbS as an umbrella concept encompassing a number of different ecosystem-based approaches. Source: Cohen-Shacham et al. (2016)



Activity: Regional Challenge Plan

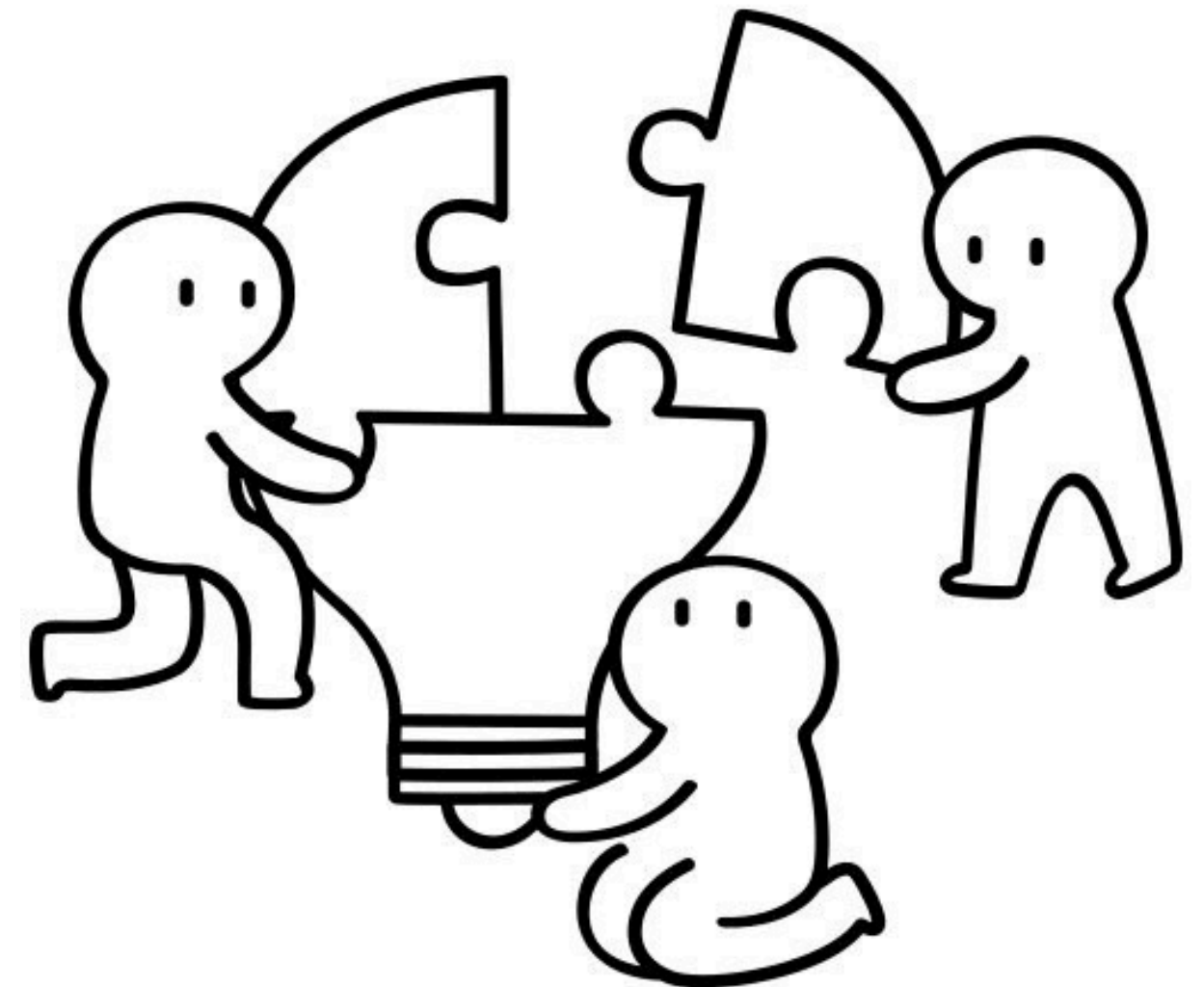
Instructions:

- In groups, choose a specific Malaysian coastal area (e.g., Pulau Payar, Pulau Kendi, or Sabah Islands).

Identify:

- Main threats and vulnerabilities.
- Key stakeholders and their roles.
- SMART objectives for addressing challenges.
- A draft timeline and priority actions.

Present your plan to the class for feedback.



Summary & Key Takeaways

1. Action plans translate **broad strategies into specific solutions.**
2. Localizing plans ensures they address **unique regional challenges.**
3. Regional action plans **link policy, science, and community priorities.**
4. Effective plans are:
 - **Clear and measurable.**
 - Developed collaboratively.
 - Flexible to adapt over time.
5. Regional collaboration and **knowledge sharing strengthen success.**
6. Case studies highlight the importance of regional collaboration for ocean governance.




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THANK YOU

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